

FRED UPTON, MICHIGAN
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HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115
Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

May 2, 2013

Mr. David Turetsky
Chief, Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Turetsky:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology on Thursday, March 14, 2013, to testify at the hearing entitled "Oversight of FirstNet and Emergency Communications."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions by the close of business on Thursday, May 16, 2013. Your responses should be e-mailed to the Legislative Clerk in Word format at Charlotte.Savercool@mail.house.gov and mailed to Charlotte Savercool, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



Greg Walden
Chairman

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

cc: Anna Eshoo, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

Attachment

Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Henry Waxman

1. The Public Safety and Spectrum Act requires public safety users to vacate the T-Band in 11 years. First responders in Los Angeles rely heavily on the T-Band and tell me they have no reasonable alternative for voice communications at this time. LA-RICS, a coalition of Los Angeles public safety agencies, recently filed a waiver request with the FCC seeking permission to apply for new voice channels to ensure that first responders in the LA market have the ability to communicate after they are required to vacate the T-band.

I am pleased that the FCC sought comment on the LA-RICS waiver request.

Can you provide an update on the status of that proceeding? More specifically, when do you anticipate that the FCC will make a decision in regard to the LA-RICS waiver request?

2. As you may be aware, last Congress several Democratic members of this committee wrote Chairman Upton and Chairman Walden to request a hearing on issues related to “superstorm” Sandy. Simply put, communications services failed to perform as needed during and after the storm. We thought it was important to examine the impact of the storm and reliability of communications services, especially in the larger context of our transition to wireless and IP networks.

Although we cannot predict the next disaster, we know that these kinds of events are on the rise. So we need to consider whether we need to take additional steps to prepare our networks for this more common occurrence.

We were pleased that the FCC decided to examine this issue in more detail.

What can you tell us about the FCC’s field hearings on this topic? What new information about network reliability and resiliency has come to light as a result of these hearings?

The Honorable John Dingell

1. What percentage of calls to E911 emergency dispatchers are made using wireless devices?

2. Does GPS allow E911 dispatchers to locate wireless callers indoors?

3. Similarly, are the FCC’s location accuracy standards for Phase II of E911 applicable to indoor environments?

4. NextNav/Progeny are currently awaiting FCC approval before they can begin providing indoor position location services to support emergency first responders. When does the Commission expect to grant or deny NextNav/Progeny’s request?

5. Additionally, please describe the approval process for NextNav/Progeny’s request.

The Honorable Mike Doyle

1. According to the National Broadband Plan wireless backhaul is "critical to the deployment of wireless broadband and other wireless services," particularly "[w]hen fiber is not proximate to a cell site." I understand that the existing wireless backhaul networks face a number of regulatory and technological constraints that limit their potential capacity. These independently-powerable backhaul services are important to undergird FirstNet, the national first responder network.

How did public safety and mobile networks perform during natural events, like Hurricane Sandy, and man-made events, like 9/11?

2. Can public safety networks and mobile networks work without backhaul?

3. If the FCC ultimately reclaims spectrum in the 24 and 39 GHz range, how long will it take, including the necessary legal proceedings, for a new wireless backhaul provider to build-out a backhaul service with the seized spectrum?

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan

1. The danger of cyber threats to our emergency networks could cripple the ability of our responders to react to an emergency and bring additional harm. In your written testimony, you describe the FCC's efforts to work with communications providers to develop voluntary cybersecurity measures and best practices as well as educate shareholders on threats. My district is home to Los Alamos National Laboratory, which provides some of our nation's leading work on supercomputing and cybersecurity. Has the FCC considered consulting with the lab on these cyber threats?