



South Dakota Public Safety Communications Council

700 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

September 22, 2017

Governor Daugaard
500 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

Governor Daugaard;

The Middle Class Jobs Creation Act of 2012 was signed into law February 22, 2012 creating an independent authority (FirstNet) within the US Department of Commerce to address a long-standing issue of communications interoperability within the first responder community. FirstNet was tasked with the creation of a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) to serve public safety in their day to day activities as well as having an available network in times of emergency. In addition to those responsibilities assigned to FirstNet, each state had designated duties assigned for oversight of the program within their respective states

The South Dakota Public Safety Communications Council (SDPSCC) was assigned the responsibility of oversight and as a representative governance of the FirstNet program in South Dakota. A primary responsibility of each state governance body is the review of state plans delivered by FirstNet outlining the planned network deployment within that state. The SDPSCC appointed a review committee with expertise related to the different aspects of the state plan.

After reviewing the plan and interacting with the awarded vendor (AT&T) and FirstNet, the review committee at this point sees no compelling reason to opt out of the plan as presented. While there is significant agency responsibility to meet FirstNet system requirements, this plan is a foundation to build upon for the next 25 years of the FirstNet commitment. This opt-in does not commit the State or end users to any financial obligation.

The full SDPSCC membership has been provided an overview of the state plan and has introduced and approved a motion to recommend that South Dakota opt in to the FirstNet plan at this time.

Sincerely,

Matt Tooley, Chairman, SDPSCC

FirstNet State Plan Review Committee

Chris Saunsoci – Yankton Sioux Tribe Law Enforcement
Lt. Casey Collins – South Dakota Highway Patrol
Craig Eichstadt – South Dakota Attorney General’s Office
Chuck Kevghas – South Dakota Department of Health
Denny Gorton – South Dakota Firefighters Association
Dion Reynolds – Rosebud Sioux Tribe IT
David Zolnowsky – BIT Commissioner
Bruce Nachtigall – Game Fish & Parks
SFC David Goodwin – South Dakota National Guards
Jeff Litterick – Network Technologies (BIT)
Todd Dravland – State Radio Communications (BIT)
Mike Waldner – FirstNet Project Manager (BIT)
Matt Tooley – Metro Communications, APCO, NENA
Jeff Pierce – Engineering (BIT)