

Dated: September 14, 2016.

**Jason Donaldson,**

*Chief Financial Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Telecommunications and Information Administration

#### First Responder Network Authority

[Docket Number: 160830796-6796-01]

RIN 0660-XC030

#### Notice of Availability of a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the West Region of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network and Notice of Public Meetings

**AGENCY:** First Responder Network Authority, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Announcement of availability of a draft programmatic environmental impact statement and of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The First Responder Network Authority (“FirstNet”) announces the availability of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the West Region (“Draft PEIS”). FirstNet also announces a series of public meetings to be held throughout the West Region to receive comments on the Draft PEIS. The Draft PEIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the proposed nationwide public safety broadband network in the West Region, composed of Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

**DATES:** Submit comments on the Draft PEIS for the West Region on or before November 15, 2016. FirstNet will also hold public meetings in each of the six states. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for meeting dates.

**ADDRESSES:** At any time during the public comment period, members of the public, public agencies, and other interested parties are encouraged to submit written comments, questions, and concerns about the project for FirstNet’s consideration or to attend any of the public meetings. Written comments may be submitted electronically via [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), FIRSTNET-2016-0004, or by mail to Genevieve Walker, Director of Environmental Compliance, First Responder Network Authority, National

Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, M/S 243, Reston, VA 20192. Comments received will be made a part of the public record and may be posted to FirstNet’s Web site ([www.firstnet.gov](http://www.firstnet.gov)) without change. Comments should be machine readable and should not be copy-protected. All personally identifiable information (e.g., name, address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. The Draft PEIS is available for download from [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), FIRSTNET-2016-0004. A CD containing the electronic files of this document is also available at public libraries (see Chapter 14 of the Draft PEIS for the complete distribution list). See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for public meeting addresses.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For more information on the Draft PEIS, contact Genevieve Walker, Director of Environmental Compliance, First Responder Network Authority, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, M/S 243, Reston, VA 20192.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Public Meetings**

Attendees can obtain information regarding the project and/or submit a comment in person during public meetings. The meeting details are as follows:

- Olympia, Washington: October 3, 2016, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Olympia, 415 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501.
- Los Angeles, California: October 4, 2016, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Omni Los Angeles Hotel at California Plaza, 251 South Olive Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.
- Sacramento, California: October 5, 2016, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Hyatt Regency Sacramento, 1209 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.
- Carson City, Nevada: October 6, 2016, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Courtyard Carson City, 3870 South Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701.
- Salem, Oregon: October 12, 2016, from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Salem, Oregon, 1590 Weston Court NE., Salem, OR 97301.
- Phoenix, Arizona: October 18, 2016, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel, 100 North 1st Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004.
- Pocatello, Idaho: October 20, 2016, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Red Lion

Hotel Pocatello, 1555 Pocatello Creek Road, Pocatello, ID 83201.

#### **Background**

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-96, Title VI, 126 Stat. 156 (codified at 47 U.S.C. 1401 *et seq.*)) (the “Act”) created and authorized FirstNet to take all actions necessary to ensure the building, deployment, and operation of an interoperable, nationwide public safety broadband network (“NPSBN”) based on a single, national network architecture. The Act meets a longstanding and critical national infrastructure need, to create a single, nationwide network that will, for the first time, allow police officers, fire fighters, emergency medical service professionals, and other public safety entities to effectively communicate with each other across agencies and jurisdictions. The NPSBN is intended to enhance the ability of the public safety community to perform more reliably, effectively, and safely; increase situational awareness during an emergency; and improve the ability of the public safety community to effectively engage in those critical activities.

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347) (“NEPA”) requires federal agencies to undertake an assessment of environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making a final decision and implementing the action. NEPA requirements apply to any federal project, decision, or action that may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. NEPA also establishes the Council on Environmental Quality (“CEQ”), which issued regulations implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (see 40 CFR parts 1500-1508). Among other considerations, CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1508.28 recommend the use of *tiering* from a “broader environmental impact statement (such as a national program or policy statements) with subsequent narrower statements or environmental analysis (such as regional or basin wide statements or ultimately site-specific statements) incorporating by reference the general discussions and concentrating solely on the issues specific to the statement subsequently prepared.”

Due to the geographic scope of FirstNet (all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five territories) and the diversity of ecosystems potentially traversed by the project, FirstNet has elected to prepare five regional PEISs. The five PEISs were divided into the East, Central, West, South, and Non-

Contiguous Regions. The West Region consists of Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. The Draft PEIS analyzes potential impacts of the deployment and operation of the NPSBN on the natural and human environment in the West Region, in accordance with FirstNet's responsibilities under NEPA.

#### Next Steps

All comments received by the public and any interested stakeholders will be evaluated and considered by FirstNet during the preparation of the Final PEIS. Once a PEIS is completed and a Record of Decision (ROD) is signed, FirstNet will evaluate site-specific documentation, as network design is developed, to determine if the proposed project has been adequately evaluated in the PEIS or warrants a Categorical Exclusion, an Environmental Assessment, or an Environmental Impact Statement.

Dated: September 15, 2016.

**Elijah Veenendaal,**

*Attorney—Advisor, First Responder Network Authority.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Defense Innovation Board; Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting

**AGENCY:** Office of the Deputy Chief Management Officer, Department of Defense (DoD).

**ACTION:** Notice of Federal Advisory Committee meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The DoD is publishing this notice to announce the following Federal advisory committee meeting of the Defense Innovation Board ("the Board"). This meeting is partially closed to the public.

**DATES:** The public meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, October 5, 2016. The open portion of the meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 11:30 a.m. (Escort required; see guidance in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section, "Public's Accessibility to the Meeting.")

The closed portion of the meeting of the Board will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The open portion of the meeting will be held in the Pentagon Conference Center Room B6 in the Pentagon, Washington, DC (Escort required; See guidance in the

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section, "Public's Accessibility to the Meeting.")

The closed portion of the meeting will be held at various locations in the Pentagon.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Board's Designated Federal Officer (DFO) is Roma Laster, Defense Innovation Board, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Room 5B1088A, Washington, DC 20301-1155, *roma.k.laster.civ@mail.mil*. The Board's Executive Director is Joshua Marcuse, Defense Innovation Board, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Room 3A1078, Washington, DC 20301-1155, *joshua.j.marcuse.civ@mail.mil*. For meeting information and to submit written comments or questions to the Board, send via email to mailbox address:

*joshua.j.marcuse.civ@mail.mil*. Please include in the Subject line "DIB October 2016 Meeting."

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This meeting is being held under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) of 1972 (5 U.S.C., Appendix, as amended), the Government in the Sunshine Act of 1976 (5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended), and 41 CFR 102-3.140.

**Purpose of the Meeting:** The mission of the Board is to examine and provide the Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Secretary of Defense independent advice and recommendations on innovative means to address future challenges in terms of integrated change to organizational structure and processes, business and functional concepts, and technology applications. The Board focuses on (a) technology and capabilities, (b) practices and operations, and (c) people and culture.

**Meeting Agenda:** During the open portion of the meeting on Wednesday, October 5, 2016, the Board will present and discuss their observations and recommendations on how to expand and advance innovation across the Department of Defense. Time permitting, the Board will discuss and deliberate on interim findings and recommendations regarding the challenges of: (a) Promoting innovative practices and culture in the conventional forces; (b) barriers to innovation and collaboration in the civilian workforce; (c) barriers to information sharing and the processing, exploitation, dissemination, and interoperability of data; (d) enabling workforce-driven innovation using crowdsourcing methodologies and techniques; (e) the lack of adequate organic capability and capacity for software development and rapid prototyping of software solutions; (f) approaches to increasing collaboration with entities outside the federal

government; (g) recommendations on how to improve the digital infrastructure that supports command and control; (h) streamlining of rapid fielding processes, particularly for unmanned systems; (i) the lack of a dedicated computer science core in the workforce; and (j) potential application of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, autonomy, and man-machine teaming.

During the closed portion of the meeting on Wednesday, October 5, 2016, the Board will hold discussions of innovation with senior leaders from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Office of Net Assessment, and the Office of the Secretary of the Army. Discussion topics will include, but are not limited to, strategic platforms and technological advancements, briefings on emerging threats, future military capabilities, and observations from research sessions involving classified material. All presentations and resulting discussions are classified.

#### *Public's Accessibility to the Meeting:*

Pursuant to Federal statutes and regulations (5 U.S.C., Appendix, 5 U.S.C. 552b, and 41 CFR 102-3.140 through 102-3.165) and the availability of space, the meeting is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Seating is on a first-come basis. Members of the public wishing to attend the meeting should contact the Executive Director to register and make arrangements for a Pentagon escort, if necessary, no later than five business days prior to the meeting, at the email address noted in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Public attendees requiring escort should arrive at the Pentagon Visitor's Center, located near the Pentagon Metro Station's south exit (the escalators to the left upon exiting through the turnstiles) and adjacent to the Pentagon Transit Center bus terminal, with sufficient time to complete security screening no later than 8:30 a.m. on October 5, 2016. Note: Pentagon tour groups enter through the Visitor's Center, so long lines could form well in advance. To complete security screening, please come prepared to present two forms of identification of which one must be a picture identification card. While some Government and military DoD Common Access Card holders are not required to have an escort, they may be required to pass through the Visitor's Center to gain access to the Pentagon.

**Special Accommodations:** Individuals requiring special accommodations to access the public meeting should contact the Executive Director at least five business days prior to the meeting