

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington DC  
Re: Proceeding 04-296  
Date: March 20, 2012

The Nebraska State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) in cooperation with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is presently engaged in seeking the best way for Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) emergency messages to be generated in the State. Initially such messages will originate from National Weather Service Offices. In the near future we hope to install technology that could allow state and local law enforcement and emergency personnel to generate CAP messages to broadcast and cable. It is also expected that the CAP technology will be useful to generate alerts to wireless devices, road signs and other public media.

Nebraska SECC appreciates very much the FCC efforts to further the process of improving the Emergency Alert System. CAP is clearly a significant step in the right direction and we commend the Commission for adopting CAP in the EAS system. It has come to our attention though that the present FEMA IPAWS system and the National Weather Service equipment currently being installed is not compatible with specifications stipulated by the FCC in the Fifth Report and Order dated January 10, 2012. Specifically the limitation on Text-to-Speech technology at the local station and cable level.

Nebraska SECC agrees with the concepts expressed to the FCC by FEMA and the ECIG on March 12, 2012, relevant to local Text-to-Speech (TTS) generation. The NAB also commented on the concern February 15, 2012

The Nebraska CAP generation project needs to be on hold until a solution is found. If local TTS is not allowed by broadcast and cable we do not know how a CAP message could reliably make it to the public. Therefore it would not be prudent to proceed with the expense and effort developing CAP generation for local or statewide emergency messages in Nebraska. The Committee has a consensus on this issue.

We were encouraged by FCC staff to submit comments and are very thankful for the opportunity to let the Commission know of the importance of this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact the Chair of Nebraska SECC Jim Skinner. He will be glad to include any other members of the Committee in discussions if that would be of assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nebraska SECC

## **Nebraska State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC)**

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