

2018 Nebraska State EAS Plan FAQ's

What are the notable changes in the new plan?

All EAS updates and changes since 2007 are in the new plan. There are no State designated Local Primary stations (LP1's or LP2's) and a terrestrial or satellite PEP station must be monitored directly. Local EAS Plans are free to use LP stations as they see fit. The State Plan supports Local Plans and they are considered an adjunct to the State Plan.

When do we have to be in compliance with the new plan?

All Nebraska EAS participants have to be in compliance before September 1st, 2018.

Why did we need a new plan since the old one seems to be working?

The 2007 plan did not meet the Rules and Regulations and was not accepted by the FCC. It had TV stations as monitoring assignments which became untenable with the advent of DTV. The biggest flaw in the old plan was the lack of a required second EAN source being monitored by each EAS participant. The FCC asked that all EAS State Plans be updated to reflect changes in both technology and the Rules and Regulations then be submitted to, and be accepted by, the FCC.

I see that NPR and Premiere satellite PEP's are monitoring options. Why can't I monitor a station that monitors either of those?

Each EAS participant must directly monitor a second PEP EAN source. A station changing formats or network affiliation might no longer carry either of those, or it may be having technical difficulties. Direct PEP monitoring is the best method to assure a second EAN source is received by each participant.

I see that Sirius/XM is a monitoring option. Why should I pay a subscription to a radio competitor?

You do not need to pay for a subscription. The RMT's and Federal alerts will be broadcast over the channel that operates without a subscription. There will be no RWT's, only RMT's and Federal alerts. Make sure that Washington, D.C. is NOT activated as an RMT forwarding option on your EAS appliance. You are to only log their RMT's. You must relay Sirius/XM delivered Federal alerts. Sirius/XM has been a designated PEP source for over a decade and a very under-utilized resource. Sirius/XM home receivers are relatively inexpensive as well. They can be purchased on-line for about \$65-\$80 which includes antenna, power supply, and audio cable. Nebraska is the first State to use them as a Federal alert source.

There is a list of radio stations that can be used as the second EAN source as well. Why not use them instead of the satellite PEP's.

You can use them, but you have to be able to receive them well enough to activate your EAS appliance 24 hours a day. The AM noise floor precludes that in most places, and most of these stations are directional at night which makes it even more difficult since they then point away from the more populous areas of Nebraska. The equipment needed to receive them consistently is also much more expensive than some of the satellite options. AM radios capable of decent reception run from about \$65 (C Crane Solar Observer) up to \$1000+. This does not include the cost of external antennas. At KRVN we tried to use the AM radio in our DASDEC, with an external antenna, and experienced enough electrical noise that receiving KRVN RWT alerts was more miss than hit.

Why not use a "Daisy Chain" system like many other States use?

The topography and demographics of Nebraska preclude that. This was studied at length and found to be non-viable without internet links to cover the gaps. The FCC was adamantly against any internet links for the second EAN source and the idea was scrapped. There would have also been too many single points of failure to make it reliable on a "Bad Day"