

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



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STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS

March 9, 2015

Dr. Jeffrey D. Stern
Chairman, E-911 Services Board
Virginia Department of Emergency Management
10501 Trade Court
Richmond, VA 23236

Dear Chairman Stern:

I am writing concerning the "Commonwealth of Virginia Internet Protocol (IP)-Based 9-1-1 Network Feasibility Study" dated January 2015 that was submitted to the Virginia Information Technologies Agency by Mission Critical Partners, Inc. It is my understanding that this study was commissioned by the Virginia E-911 Services Board.

While the State Corporation Commission ("SCC") appreciates the depth and breadth of this study, we are concerned with some of the statements as they relate to the SCC. In particular, verbiage at the bottom of page 184 says:

As the telecommunications industry becomes less and less regulated as the components of 9-1-1 begin to diminish as NG9-1-1 becomes a reality in the Commonwealth, the SCC will have less and less necessity, jurisdiction, and involvement as the rulemaking body for 9-1-1 in Virginia. ***There is also less desire on the part of the SCC to remain involved in 9-1-1 rules without the expertise and background necessary to promulgate effective rules.*** The evolution to NG9-1-1 carries with it the need to move rulemaking authority to the State of Virginia E-911 Services Board (emphasis added).

This statement mystifies us, as I am unaware that anyone at the SCC was consulted or interviewed concerning this study. By way of clarification, the SCC stands ready and is desirous of fulfilling our legislative and regulatory responsibilities regarding the provision of E-911 services, including rulemaking and enforcing such rules. We currently have, and expect to continue to have, the expertise and background necessary to promulgate effective rules.

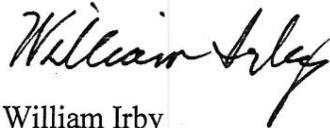
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As you are most likely aware, the SCC has been actively involved in 911 matters for many years. Local exchange telephone company tariffs for the provision of 911 services have been on file here since the mid-1980s. The SCC has had E-911 rules in place since 2004 (Rules Governing Enhanced 911 (E-911) Service, 20VAC5-425-10 et. seq.). Further, we have an open docket (PUC-2012-00042, *Ex Parte*: In the matter of investigating 911 emergency call service outages and problems) that investigated Virginia 911 outages following the June 2012 Derecho, and we continue to monitor corrective action identified and being taken following those outages. We are closely tracking associated developments and rulemakings at the Federal Communications Commission, and have filed comments with the FCC in its 911 proceedings as appropriate.

While the future jurisdictional and regulatory nature of Next Generation 911 may not be clear at this point, we want to be on record that the SCC is willing and desires to fulfill whatever role it can going forward in this critically important public safety area.

Very truly yours,



William Irby

C: Members of the E-911 Services Board