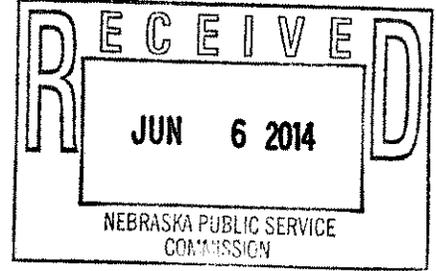


BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission, on its own motion, seeking to investigate and determine whether additional funds from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund should be made available to public safety answering points for costs to implement text to 911 solutions.

) Application No. 911-060/PI-191
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**COMMENTS
OF
N.E. COLORADO CELLULAR, INC.
d/b/a VIAERO WIRELESS**

N.E. Colorado Cellular, Inc., d/b/a Viaero Wireless (“Viaero”), by and through its counsel and pursuant to the Nebraska Public Service Commission’s (the “Commission’s”) Order Opening Docket, Seeking Comment and Scheduling Hearing, dated May 6, 2014, (the “Order”) in the above-referenced docket, is pleased to provide the following Comments.

I. INTRODUCTION

Viaero is a wireless carrier under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-456. Viaero provides interstate telecommunications services as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 254(d) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.5 and was designated an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) by Commission Order entered on October 18, 2005 in Application C-3324.

II. VIAERO GENERALLY BELIEVES THE PROPOSED PLAN TO MAKE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM THE ENHANCED WIRELESS 911 FUND AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS FOR COSTS TO IMPLEMENT TEXT TO 911 SOLUTIONS IS PREMATURE IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT FINDINGS OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA NEXT GENERATION TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS STUDY.

Viaero agrees with the Commission that costs associated with the provision of NG911 services, specifically including text to 911 services, are (and Viaero believes have been) an eligible use of enhanced wireless 911 funds. As early as 2009, evidence presented to the Commission in Docket 911-019 identified the important national and state evolution towards NG911 and the continuing need for funding to upgrade software and equipment at the PSAP level as technological advances in communications require the current 911 system to accommodate SMS (text to 911) messages, images, video, and other yet to be developed methods of communications, in much the same way as wireless Phase II required technological upgrades in the recent past. (See Comments of Grand Island – Hall County Emergency Management Communication, dated September 1, 2009). In fact, in 2006, the Commission established eligible vendors of equipment and software for use by PSAPs as a guide for establishing consistent equipment investments as the evolution to NG911 advanced. Given this historic recognition of the appropriate use of E911 funding by PSAPs for such technology, the premise stated in the Commission’s Opening Order that PSAPs desire “additional funding beyond their annual allocation” in order to purchase equipment necessary to implement text to 911 services is difficult to understand.

All stakeholders involved in implementing NG911 services (service providers, wireless service providers and GIS providers) will be required to incur additional costs to transform Nebraska’s current 911 system into NG911. The Final Report of the State of Nebraska Next Generation Telephone Communications Study issued in March, 2014 (“NG911 Study”) clearly recognizes this necessity and even outlines anticipated costs for implementing a new NG911 network. Viaero has advocated for many years the continuation of a robust E911 Fund and has opposed the decrease of the E911 surcharge as the State looks to begin studying the proposed

structure and implementation of a new NG911 network. Clearly, all stakeholders, not just PSAPs, will be incurring costs associated with the implementation of this vital new technological network and the Commission must address those funding needs as well.

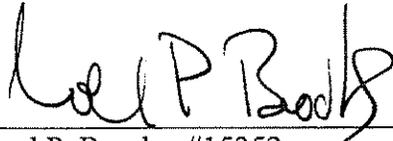
However, Viaero believes that this Docket is entirely premature. The NG911 Study found that "...PSAPs believe that the State has no one in place who understands the complexity of PSAP operations and . . . no authority to direct and lead PSAPs into the NG911 arena" (NG911 Study, p. 26.). The NG911 Study is now awaiting the Legislature to take action on the massive set of recommendations it presented, including how and when the State will proceed to establish a state-wide authority to design and construct a new NG911 network. In the absence of any Legislative plan to develop and implement a statewide NG911 system, the investment by PSAPs in NG911 software and equipment lacks any statewide guidance, plan, or hope for uniformity and interconnectivity within a new network. It is, therefore, impractical and premature to provide any kind of informed response to the Commission's questions relating to identification of the "various types of text to 911 solutions available to PSAPs" and the "costs of implementing and providing a text to 911 solution for PSAPs". Neither of these questions can be reasonably answered without knowing what type of system the PSAPs will be interconnecting with and what technical requirements that system will demand. Clearly, reasonable decisions regarding individual PSAP software and equipment purchases cannot be made in a vacuum, but must be made in the context of how each PSAP fits into a coordinated network architecture, which the State of Nebraska does not yet possess for NG911.

III. CONCLUSION

Viaero looks forward to providing further comment and analysis as this Docket progresses.

Respectfully submitted this 6th day of June, 2014.

**NE COLORADO CELLULAR, INC.,
d/b/a VIAERO WIRELESS**

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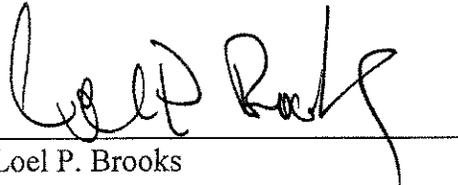
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on this 6th day of June, 2014, an original, five copies and an electronic copy of the Comments of N.E. Colorado Cellular, Inc., d/b/a Viaero Wireless, in Application No. 911-060/PI-191 were delivered to:

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