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WEBINARS TO BE HELD TO ADDRESS THE FCC'S RULES REGARDING 911 RELIABILITY AND CERTIFICATION

The staff of the FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau will hold a webinar on how the recently adopted rules regarding 911 reliability are likely to apply to small and rural providers and the certification process. The webinar will be offered on three separate occasions:

- Wednesday, July 16, 2014 – 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 13, 2014 – 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 10, 2014 – 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Participants of the webinar will need to register online at the following address:
<http://transition.fcc.gov/pshs/event-registration.html>.

The FCC originally announced the 911 Reliability Rules and Annual Certification Requirements on December 12, 2013. The following is a brief summary of the 911 reliability rules and which carriers must file annual certifications:

WHO MUST FILE AN ANNUAL CERTIFICATION

The new annual certification rules will apply to any entity that provides 911, E911, or NG911 capabilities such as call routing, Automatic Location Information ("ALI"), Automatic Number Information ("ANI"), or the functional equivalent of those capabilities, directly to a PSAP, a statewide default answering point, an appropriate local emergency authority, or that operates one or more central offices that directly serve a PSAP. For the purpose of the rules, a central office directly serves a PSAP if it: (1) hosts a selective router or ALI/ANI database, (2) provides functionally equivalent NG911 capabilities, or (3) is the last service-provider facility through which a 911 trunk or administrative line passes before connecting to a PSAP. A "Covered 911 Service Provider" is meant to encompass entities that provide capabilities to route 911 calls and associated data such as ALI and ANI to the appropriate PSAP, but **not entities that merely provide the capability for customers to originate 911 calls**. The FCC further noted that while most current 911 networks rely on the infrastructure of an incumbent local exchange carrier, no single type of entity will always provide 911 services in every community. Therefore, it is important that each carrier assess whether the FCC's new 911 annual certification rules

applies to them. Once a company has determined that it meets the FCC's definition of a "Covered 911 Service Provider," it should then begin to implement the industry-backed "best practices" or alternative measures required for the annual certification.

WHEN A COVERED PROVIDER MUST FILE AN ANNUAL CERTIFICATION

The initial certification is to be filed by each Covered 911 Service Provider one year after the effective date of the rules (February 17, 2014) certifying that it has made substantial progress toward meeting the standards of the full certification. The following year, Covered Service Providers will need to certify that they are fully in compliance with the 911 reliability Rules.

If you have any questions about the 911 Service Provider rules, need assistance in assessing whether your company will need to file an annual certification or needs help in setting up best practices or alternative measures to ensure compliance with the rule and the filing of the annual certification, please contact your GVNW consultant, Steve Gatto at 830-895-7226, Courtney Spears at 830-895-7221, or Dave Beier at 217-862-1936.