



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commis
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

DA 17-997

Released October 10, 2017

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU TEMPORARILY WAIVES LOCATION ACCURACY OBLIGATIONS FOR 911 CALLS FOR CERTAIN SERVICE PROVIDERS IN AREAS AFFECTED BY HURRICANE MARIA

In consideration of the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands,¹ the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (Bureau) finds good cause to waive on our own motion certain requirements under Section 20.18 of the Commission's rules to alleviate the burden of regulatory compliance as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands recover from Hurricane Maria.²

Pursuant to Section 20.18 of the Commission's rules, Commercial Mobile Radio Services licensees are required to meet certain Phase II location accuracy standards with respect to 911 calls. The Bureau has been advised that, because of hurricane damage and related effects, service providers that utilize triangulation to provide location information for 911 calls may not have a sufficient number of towers in service to permit triangulation at this time in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Based on these circumstances, pursuant to Section 1.3 of the Commission's rules, the Bureau on its own motion hereby waives the location requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 20.18(h)(1) for providers affected by Hurricane Maria that utilize a network-based location solution until the earlier of: (1) the date the licensee has restored facilities sufficient to enable transmission of 911 location information to PSAPs pursuant to the obligations stated in Section 20.18(h)(1) of the Commission's rules; or (2) December 31, 2017 solely insofar as the loss or incapacity of facilities in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands would impact their ability to meet the relevant location accuracy compliance standards. In this context, "affected" means those persons or entities that operate facilities in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or the territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands using a network-based location solution. We will monitor restoration status and provide further extensions if restoration activities are not sufficient to provide accurate location information by December 31, 2017.

By the Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau.

-FCC-

¹ President Trump issued major disaster declarations for both of these areas. See <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/21/president-donald-j-trump-approves-puerto-rico-disaster-declaration>; <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/21/president-donald-j-trump-approves-us-virgin-islands-disaster-declaration>.

² 47 C.F.R. § 1.3. The nature and scope of the devastation, and the critical need to restore communications, constitute good cause for these actions. See *Connect America Fund*, FCC 17-129, released October 4, 2017, at paras. 1-2. Information on earlier waivers of Commission regulatory requirements and other actions in connection with Hurricane Maria is available at www.fcc.gov/maria.