



PUBLIC NOTICE

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THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU ANNOUNCES “EXEMPT” *EX PARTE* STATUS IN PREPARATION OF ISSUING A PUBLIC NOTICE SEEKING COMMENT ON MULTILINGUAL WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTING

PS Docket Nos. 15-91 and 15-94

On October 19, 2023, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) released a Third Report and Order adopting rules regarding the Wireless Emergency Alert system (WEA).¹ Among other things, the *2023 WEA Report and Order* requires commercial mobile service providers that participate in WEA to support multilingual WEA templates for the 13 most commonly spoken languages in the United States, American Sign Language, and English.² In doing so, the Commission directed the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (Bureau) to develop implementation parameters for template-based multilingual alerting and to seek comment on various aspects of its implementation.³ Pursuant to this direction, the Bureau will issue a Public Notice seeking comment on these issues at a later date.

To allow fuller discussions with the staff of Federal agencies and interested stakeholders regarding template capabilities and content in preparation for the Bureau’s issuance of the above-referenced Public Notice, the Bureau announces that during the period between the release of this Public Notice and the subsequent release of a Public Notice seeking comment on multilingual WEA this rulemaking will be treated as an exempt proceeding under the Commission’s rules in 47 CFR §§ 1.1200(a) and 1.1204(b)(1) to the extent it deals with the subject of multilingual WEA.⁴ Accordingly, *ex parte* presentations to or from Commission decision-making personnel directed to the merits or outcome of issues related solely to the forthcoming Public Notice in PS Docket Nos. 15-91 and 15-94 are permissible and need not be disclosed. Presentations that are directed in whole or in part to the merits or outcome of other issues raised in the Commission’s underlying Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking⁵ or addressed in the *2023 WEA Report and Order* remain subject to the permit-but-disclose rules.⁶

¹ *Wireless Emergency Alerts; Amendments to Part 11 of the Commission’s Rules Regarding the Emergency Alert System*, Report and Order, PS Docket Nos. 15-91 and 15-94, FCC 23-88 (2023) (*2023 WEA Report and Order*).

² *Id.* at 11, para. 19.

³ *Id.* at 13-15, paras. 21-24.

⁴ 47 CFR § 1.1200(a) (stating that “[w]here the public interest so requires in a particular proceeding, the Commission and its staff retain the discretion to modify the applicable *ex parte* rules by order, letter, or public notice.”).

⁵ *Wireless Emergency Alerts; Amendments to Part 11 of the Commission’s Rules Regarding the Emergency Alert System*, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, PS Docket Nos. 15-91 and 15-94, FCC 23-30 (2023).

⁶ 47 CFR § 1.1206.

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