



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
45 L St., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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

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PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU ANNOUNCES FILING DEADLINES FOR COMMENTS AND REPLY COMMENTS REGARDING THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) MULTILINGUAL ALERTING NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING (FCC 24-23)

PS Docket No. 15-94

Comments Due: April 8, 2024

Reply Comments Due: May 6, 2024

On February 15, 2024, the Federal Communications Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), FCC 24-23, that proposes and seeks comment on implementing a multilingual alert processing model for the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to promote the distribution of EAS alerts in non-English languages.¹ The proposed processing model would create pre-scripted (“template”) alert messages in English as well as Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Italian, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese for select emergencies (such as wildfires).² TV and radio broadcasters, cable service providers, and other services that make up the EAS public alert distribution system would be required to transmit template alerts in the language that matches their programming content.³ The NPRM also seeks comment a wide range of specific technical, operational, cost and implementation timing issues related to the template alert distribution model.

A summary of the NPRM was published in the Federal Register on March 7, 2024, stating that comments on these proposed rules would be due 30 days after the date on which the Federal Register publication occurred, and that reply comments would be due 60 days after such Federal Register publication.⁴ Accordingly, by this Public Notice, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau notifies interested parties that comments on the proposed rules are due on **April 8, 2024**, and reply comments are due on **May 6, 2024**.

Filing Instructions. Comments may be filed using the Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), or by filing paper copies.⁵ Comments and reply comments should refer to PS Docket No. 15-94.

- **Electronic Filers:** Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the

¹ *Amendment of Part 11 of the Commission’s Rules Regarding the Emergency Alert System*, PS Docket No. 15-94, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 24-23 (Feb. 15, 2024).

² *See id.*, para. 15-16.

³ *See id.*

⁴ *See* Federal Communications Commission, *The Emergency Alert System*, 89 Fed. Reg. 16504 (March 7, 2024).

⁵ *See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121 (1998).

ECFS: <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs>.

- Paper Filers: Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing.
- Filings can be sent by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail. All filings must be addressed to the Commission’s Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.
- Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701. U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail must be addressed to 45 L Street NE, Washington, D.C., 20554.
- Effective March 19, 2020, and until further notice, the Commission no longer accepts any hand or messenger delivered filings. This is a temporary measure taken to help protect the health and safety of individuals, and to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19. *See FCC Announces Closure of FCC Headquarters Open Window and Change in Hand-Delivery Policy*, Public Notice, 35 FCC Rcd 2788 (OMD 2020), <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-closes-headquarters-open-window-and-changes-hand-delivery-policy>.

Ex Parte Presentations – Permit-But-Disclose. The proceeding this *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* initiates shall be treated as a “permit-but-disclose” proceeding in accordance with the Commission’s *ex parte* rules.⁶ Persons making *ex parte* presentations must file a copy of any written presentation or a memorandum summarizing any oral presentation within two business days after the presentation (unless a different deadline applicable to the Sunshine period applies). Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must (1) list all persons attending or otherwise participating in the meeting at which the *ex parte* presentation was made, and (2) summarize all data presented and arguments made during the presentation. If the presentation consisted in whole or in part of the presentation of data or arguments already reflected in the presenter’s written comments, memoranda or other filings in the proceeding, the presenter may provide citations to such data or arguments in his or her prior comments, memoranda, or other filings (specifying the relevant page and/or paragraph numbers where such data or arguments can be found) in lieu of summarizing them in the memorandum. Documents shown or given to Commission staff during *ex parte* meetings are deemed to be written *ex parte* presentations and must be filed consistent with rule 1.1206(b). In proceedings governed by rule 1.49(f) or for which the Commission has made available a method of electronic filing, written *ex parte* presentations and memoranda summarizing oral *ex parte* presentations, and all attachments thereto, must be filed through the electronic comment filing system available for that proceeding, and must be filed in their native format (*e.g.*, .doc, .xml, .ppt, searchable .pdf). Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission’s *ex parte* rules.

People with Disabilities. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice).

Additional Information. For additional information on this proceeding, contact David Munson, Attorney Advisor, Cybersecurity and Communications Reliability Division, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau at David.Munson@fcc.gov or 202-418-2921, or George Donato, Associate Division Chief, Cybersecurity and Communications Reliability Division, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, at George.Donato@fcc.gov or 202-418-0729.

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⁶ 47 CFR § 1.1200 *et seq.*