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PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU ANNOUNCES COMPLIANCE DATE AND PRA APPROVAL FOR RESILIENT NETWORKS MANDATORY DISASTER RESPONSE INITIATIVE (MDRI)

PS Docket Nos. 21-346 and 15-80; ET Docket No. 04-35

By this Public Notice, the Federal Communications Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (Bureau) announces that facilities-based mobile wireless providers must comply with the requirements of the Mandatory Disaster Response Initiative (MDRI) by May 1, 2024. The MDRI may be activated when any one of the following three conditions applies: 1) any entity authorized to declare Emergency Support Function 2 (ESF-2) activates ESF-2 for a given emergency or disaster; 2) the Commission activates the Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS); or 3) the Chief of the Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau issues a Public Notice activating the Mandatory Disaster Response Initiative in response to a state request to do so, where the state has also either activated its Emergency Operations Center, activated mutual aid or proclaimed a local state of emergency.²

As of May 1, 2024, and whenever the MDRI is activated thereafter, facilities-based mobile wireless providers must have each of their bilateral roaming agreements and mutual aid arrangements executed and in place.³ These facilities-based mobile wireless providers also must have taken reasonable measures to enhance municipal preparedness and restoration, increase consumer readiness and preparation, and improve public awareness and stakeholder

¹ See Resilient Networks; Amendments to Part 4 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Disruptions to Communications, New Part 4 of the Commission's Rules Concerns Disruptions to Communications, PS Docket Nos. 21-346 and 15-80; ET Docket No. 04-35, Order on Reconsideration, FCC 23-71, at 6-9, paras. 12-23 (Sept. 15, 2023) (Order on Reconsideration); see also Resilient Networks; Amendments to Part 4 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Disruptions to Communications; New Part 4 of the Commission's Rules Concerns Disruptions to Communications, PS Docket Nos. 21-346 and 15-80; ET Docket No. 04-35, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 37 FCC Rcd 8059 (2022); Federal Communications Commission, Resilient Networks; Disruptions to Communications, Final rule; withdrawal; re-issuance; announcement of compliance date, 89 Fed. Reg. 20,860 (Mar. 26, 2024) (announcing that on, October 27, 2023, the Office of Management and Budget approved the information collection requirements associated with the rules adopted in the Report and Order).

² See 47 CFR § 4.17(a)(1)-(3).

³ See id. § 4.17(a)(3)(i)-(ii);see Order on Reconsideration at 8-9, para. 23 (determining that requirement to enter into mutual aid agreements is subject to the same implementation timing as other MDRI requirements). Facilities-based mobile wireless providers must have performed a complete first round of testing of their roaming capabilities by May 1, 2024. See id. § 4.17(b). Facilities-based mobile wireless providers are required retain their roaming agreements for a period of at least one year after their expiration and supply copies of such agreements to the Commission promptly upon Commission request. Id. § 4.17(d).

communications on service and restoration status.⁴ Facilities-based mobile wireless providers operating in a certain geographic area in the aftermath of a disaster must submit reports to the Commission detailing the timing, duration, and effectiveness of their implementation of the MDRI's provisions within 60 days of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau's issuance of a Public Notice announcing that such reports must be filed.⁵

Pursuant to authority delegated by the Commission, the Bureau has published notice of both the effective date and the compliance date associated with the MDRI final rule in the Federal Register and has revised the text of the rule adopted by the Commission accordingly.⁶ For further information regarding this proceeding, please contact Logan S. Bennett, Attorney Advisor, Cybersecurity and Communications Reliability Division, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau at (202) 418-7790 or Logan.Bennett@fcc.gov.

⁴ See id. § 4.17(a)(3)(iii)-(v).

⁵ See id. § 4.17(c).

⁶ FCC Resilient Networks Final Rule 2024 Update.