

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MIGNON L. CLYBURN**

Re: Developing a Framework for Next Generation 911 Deployment, Notice of Inquiry; FCC-10-200, FCC Docket No. 10-255

If constructed correctly, Next Generation or NG9-1-1 networks should be a vast improvement over our legacy system. These new networks will give consumers the ability to communicate emergency messages through more media platforms than are possible today. Additionally, they will offer the ability to include more information when sending emergency communications. NG9-1-1 networks will also give public safety entities more options for finding a person in an emergency and will provide continued improvements in location accuracy over the current 9-1-1 system. This is not just an opportunity to solve past problems, but also a chance to design and construct state of the art emergency communications networks that make the most of the benefits IP technologies have to offer.

There are a number of important differences between NG9-1-1 networks, and their predecessors. NG9-1-1 can be accessible by a wide variety of end users and devices; many of which will have identifiers other than telephone numbers. More than one entity will be able to provide network access and communications services. As the Notice of Inquiry explains, however, while these differences offer advantages in emergency communications, they also present challenges in ensuring a successful migration to NG9-1-1 networks.

There are two main reasons why I am optimistic that we will successfully meet these challenges. First, a number of relevant stakeholders have already demonstrated that they understand that successful implementation of this policy will take collaboration and consensus. In fact, when it enacted the New and Emerging Technologies Act of 2008, Congress recognized the importance of such collaboration by creating the National E9-1-1 Implementation Coordination Office (ICO). ICO played an instrumental role, by developing a national plan for migrating to this new IP-enabled emergency network, by consulting with the public safety community, groups representing people with disabilities, technology developers, and communications providers.

The testimony of Ms. Laurie Flaherty, from NHTSA, reaffirms the value of ongoing interagency coordination. I was also pleased to see that NENA, the IETF, and others, have been actively engaged in developing and harmonizing technical standards to support the IP-based solutions that will be necessary to make the migration to NG9-1-1 a success. I urge all relevant public and private entities to continue such collaboration.

The second reason for my optimism is that this Notice properly embarks the Commission and our industry on a comprehensive examination of the relevant technological, economic, and institutional issues raised by this proceeding. I was particularly pleased to see that the Notice seeks to ensure that the concerns of all people with special needs, those living with disabilities, and non-English speaking persons are

included in the design of these new networks. The Notice recognizes that there will be significant costs to constructing NG9-1-1 networks and asks a number of questions to elicit creative approaches to addressing these costs. It is also important, as the Notice points out, to consider the cyber security ramifications of these new networks.

I commend Admiral Barnett and his staff at the Public Safety Homeland Security Bureau, for initiating this proceeding with an excellent and thorough Notice of Inquiry.