



Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

What is the Proposed Action?

The purpose of the proposed action is to develop a nationwide, interoperable, public safety broadband network (NPSBN). The goal of FirstNet is to provide dedicated services that are comparable to or better than those services public safety has access to today through commercial broadband wireless carriers. These applications and services are intended to enhance the ability of the public safety community to perform more reliably, effectively and safely. FirstNet's goal is that the NPSBN would also provide a backbone to allow for improved communications by carrying high-speed data, location information, images, and, eventually, streaming video. This capability is intended to increase situational awareness during an emergency and improve the ability of the public safety community to effectively engage in those critical activities.

Description of the Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would encompass the design, construction, and operation of the NPSBN by FirstNet or a partner organization(s). By statute, the network must have several characteristics, including security, resiliency, backwards compatibility with existing commercial networks, integration with public safety access point (PSAPs) or their equivalents, substantial rural coverage, it must be built to open, non-proprietary, commercially available standards, and it must use existing infrastructure to the maximum extent economically desirable.

FirstNet intends to construct a core network, comprised of all standard Evolved Packet Core elements under the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) standards (including the Serving and Packet Data Network Gateways, Mobility Management Entity, and the Policy and Charging Rules Function), device services, location services, billing functions, and all other network elements and functions other than the Radio Access Network (RAN). FirstNet expects to construct RAN networks that would consist of all cell site equipment, antennas, and backhaul equipment and services required to enable wireless communications with devices using the public safety broadband spectrum. In addition, FirstNet must continue to maintain and improve the NPSBN to account for new and evolving technologies.

