



Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Public Involvement

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations require that a lead agency preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to involve the public, along with government agencies, American Indian tribes, private-sector organizations, and other interested parties in scoping (40 CFR 1501.7).

The public scoping process for the FirstNet Programmatic EIS (PEIS) began with publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on November 12, 2014. Scoping is the first phase of the NEPA analysis process and gives interested parties the chance to comment on the proposed action and to offer suggestions about the issues to be considered in the EIS analyses. Interested government agencies, American Indian tribes, private-sector organizations, and the general public are encouraged to participate in this scoping process. The scoping period will last for 45 days, ending on December 29, 2014. Written comments can be submitted either electronically or by paper copy. Information and public comments received during the Scoping Period will be reviewed for consideration in the development of each regional Draft PEIS.

To receive updates and announcements regarding the project and public involvement opportunities on this project, email PEISComments@firstnet.gov.

Public Scoping Comment Period: November 12 to December 29, 2014

Scoping Meetings

FirstNet is holding scoping meetings in the following locations to obtain comments from the public:

- Tuesday, November 25: Washington DC, 4 – 8 p.m., EST
- Tuesday, December 2: Honolulu, HI, 4 – 8 p.m., HST
- Thursday, December 4: San Francisco, CA, 4 – 8 p.m., PST
- Thursday, December 4: Tucson, AZ, 4 – 8 p.m., MST
- Tuesday, December 9: Kansas City, MO, 4 – 8 p.m., CST
- Thursday, December 11: New Orleans, LA, 5 – 9 p.m., CST
- Monday, December 15: New York, NY, 4 – 8 p.m., EST

Each scoping meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to speak with subject matter experts and FirstNet staff. The scoping meetings are an open format, allowing the public to drop in at their convenience throughout the evening. Comments can be provided to FirstNet staff with a note taker present to transcribe their comments. In addition, attendees can provide their comments in writing at the meeting.

Submitting Comments

The public is invited to submit written comments for consideration during scoping. Written comments may be submitted electronically via email to PEISComments@firstnet.gov, in person using the comment forms provided at this scoping meeting, or by mail to:

Amanda Pereira, NEPA Coordinator
FirstNet
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, M/S 243
Reston, VA 20192

Comments received will be made a part of the public record and may be posted to the FirstNet website without change. Comments should be machine readable and should not be copy-protected. All personally identifiable information (e.g., name, address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

How Are Scoping Comments Used?

Scoping for the Draft PEIS will provide several key elements to assist in the preparation of the document:

1. Gathering information and ideas from the public and key stakeholder groups, such as the public safety community, about the analytical issues related to the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network;
2. Making determinations about which issues should be analyzed; and
3. Identifying alternatives to the proposed action that should be considered for analysis.

The scoping process is ongoing and critical to informing federal agency actions, in that it begins before the PEIS analyses are initiated and continues throughout document development of the PEIS.