

PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

What are the Project Alternatives?

Mixed Technologies Alternative:

Potential elements to be considered for the construction of a long-term evolution (LTE) nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN):

- Collocation of the network equipment on existing towers, poles and structures;
- Construction of new communication towers, poles and associated structures;
- Collocation on existing fiber facilities;
- Installation of new conduit and fiber using trenching or directional boring;
- Deployment of satellite phones and other portable satellite technology;
- Installation of microwave facilities for cell-site backhaul communication; and
- Utilization of deployable technologies to reach rural and remote areas, such as;
 - Cell on Wheels (COW)
 - Cell on Light Truck (COLT)
 - System on Wheels (SOW)
 - Deployable Aerial Communications Architecture: Aerial vehicles, including, but not limited to, drones, weather balloons, and blimps, which would be deployed at high altitudes and are capable of providing wide-area coverage, although with relatively low capacity/throughput.

Deployable Technologies Alternative:

Procure, deploy, and maintain a nationwide fleet of mobile communications systems to provide temporary coverage in areas not covered by existing, usable infrastructure, for deployment at times of an incident to the affected area. These mobile communication units would be temporarily installed and may use existing satellite, microwave, or radio systems for backhaul.

No Action Alternative:

Under the No Action, the NPSBN would not be constructed; there would be no nationwide, coordinated system dedicated to public safety interoperable communications. This alternative would require an act of Congress to revise the Act, which currently requires the NPSBN.