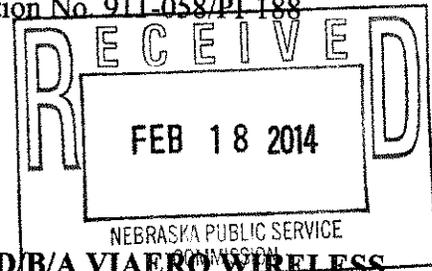


**BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Commission, on its own )  
motion, seeking to conduct a study to examine )  
issues surrounding the statewide implementation )  
of next-generation 911 funded through the )  
Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund as required by LB )  
595 [2013]. )

Application No. 911-058/PI 188



**COMMENTS OF N.E. NEBRASKA CELLULAR, INC., D/B/A VIAERO WIRELESS**

N.E. Colorado Cellular, Inc., d/b/a Viaero Wireless (“Viaero”), by and through its counsel and pursuant to the Nebraska Public Service Commission’s (the “Commission’s”) Order Releasing Initial Report and Setting Deadline for Comment, dated February 3, 2014 (the “Order”) in the above-referenced docket, is pleased to provide the following Comments.

The Initial Report of the Next-Generation 911 Study (“Initial Report”) submitted by Mission Critical Partners (“MCP”) provides a comprehensive summary of the current status of Nebraska’s 911 system. The Initial Report outlines the State’s current 911 operations and details the 911 infrastructure in the State. It also discusses funding and regulation of certain 911 stakeholders. The Initial Report also makes clear that Nebraska lacks state-wide coordination of 911 efforts. From PSAPs to networks, equipment and personnel to funding, the Initial Report recognizes that Nebraska has compartmentalized 911, authorizing local governance of first responders, PSAPs and wireline 911 networks, while wireless 911 services are coordinated at the state level by the Commission. The Initial Report also notes that the quickest and most cost-effective way to implement Next-Generation 911 (“NG-911”) is to have planning and decision making taking place on a state-wide level rather than at a local level. Viaero agrees with MCP’s evaluation and analysis of Nebraska’s current 911 system.

However, within the Initial Report, MCP states that “[t]his study and subsequent recommendations should allow Nebraska to move forward with implementing robust, secure

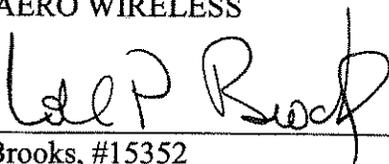
regional Emergency Services Internet Protocol (IP) networks (ESInets), interconnecting to form a statewide EISnet.” Initial Report, p. 1. Viaero would respectfully observe that while the Initial Report provides a comprehensive picture of Nebraska’s 911 system, it lacks sufficient substance to provide a recommendation which would allow Nebraska to “move forward” with a statewide public policy for implementing a NG-911 system. No consultant or any single state agency has the statutory authority to define or establish the State’s fundamental public policy concerning the development of one or more NG911 networks. What is the State’s strategic plan regarding all the disconnected stakeholders with a critical interest in NG911 and overall public safety communications? What public policy exists to determine how many PSAPs the state should support? What is the state’s public policy regarding the coordination of a new NG911 network with other public safety entities, such as the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and its related authority over Nebraska Homeland Security; the Nebraska Public Safety Broadband Network Working Group, created recently to oversee and participate with the First Responders Network Authority (“FirstNet”) (created under the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012), to provide emergency responders with the first high-speed, nationwide broadband network dedicated to public safety; the Nebraska Public Safety Commission Council (“NPSCC”) created by Executive Order of Governor Heineman in October of 2012 to provide direction related to the planning and decisions regarding development, operation and sustainability of interoperability in the State of Nebraska for public safety communications within Nebraska and with bordering states; the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (“NTIA”) of the United States Department of Commerce which is operating a grant program for state participation in the NTIA’s program to develop a nationwide public safety broadband network; the Nebraska Public Power District, the Nebraska Sheriffs’ Association, the Nebraska

Police Chiefs' Association, and the Nebraska Association of Emergency Managers, to name a few, none of which were mentioned in the Initial Report. Clearly the responsibility for the development of public policy concerning these numerous important but uncoordinated stakeholders is the exclusive provenance of the Legislature.

Nebraska should look the example of Iowa and Kansas where their state Legislature appointed a planning committee or coordination council to develop a public policy and a strategic plan for implementing NG911 in their states. There is clearly insufficient state-wide coordination of NG911 and its stakeholders in Nebraska, and without the Legislature's participation in the creation of a policy directive that encompasses all elements of 911—from the perspective of public safety, homeland security and emergency management—Nebraska will continue to have a piecemeal approach to NG911. It is therefore Viaero's recommendation that rather than having the Consultant submit a "implementation" recommendation, the Legislature should use the Initial Report, and the Consultant's subsequent final report, as an informative tool to establish or collaborate with an existing coordinating council/steering committee or board to develop an NG911 master plan which will develop a comprehensive public policy concerning this important issue.

Respectfully submitted this 18th day of February, 2014.

NE COLORADO CELLULAR, INC.,  
d/b/a VIAERO WIRELESS

By   
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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on this 18th day of February 2014, an original, five copies and an electronic copy of the Comments of N.E. Colorado Cellular, Inc., d/b/a Viaero Wireless, in Application No. 911-058/PI-188 were delivered to:

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