



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

May 6, 2024

Dear Tribal Leader:

On behalf of Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, you are cordially invited by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to participate in Tribal consultation regarding the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) proposing that a new Missing and Endangered Person (MEP) event code be added to the nation's Emergency Alert System (EAS).

The NPRM is available online at <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-24-30A1.pdf>. In the NPRM, the Commission directed its Office of Native Affairs and Policy (ONAP) to coordinate government-to-government consultation with Tribal Nations on the proposed revisions to its rules.

ONAP is coordinating Tribal consultation on the NPRM to facilitate substantive engagement with federally recognized Tribes, Alaska Native Villages, and Native Hawaiian Organizations. As part of the consultation process, Tribal leaders are invited to present statements and comments which, at the option of the Tribal leader, ONAP will enter into the formal record for the proceeding with the goal of ensuring that the FCC considers Tribal input on this important issue.

As announced by FCC Public Notice on April 23, 2024 (DA 24-379), the first Tribal consultation on the MEP event code NPRM will be held on Tuesday, May 14th at 2:00 PM Central Time in Wyandotte, Oklahoma. This is one day prior to the FCC's announced Tribal Workshop hosted by the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma on Wednesday May 15, 2024, which we also encourage you to attend. Information about the consultation and Tribal Workshop can be found online at <https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2024/05/fcc-tribal-workshop-wyandotte-oklahoma>. ONAP will be announcing additional regional and national Tribal consultations on the MEP event code NPRM.

When and Where:

Date: Tuesday May 14, 2024

Time: 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Central Time

Host: FCC Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Office of Native Affairs and Policy

Location: Indigo Sky Casino and Resort, 70220 East HWY 60, Wyandotte, OK 74370

Registration: All attendees must register. To register, please send an email message to Tribal.Events@fcc.gov by May 13, 2024, with the subject line "May Consultation". Please include the names and titles of anyone attending and include the Tribal affiliation. You are

encouraged to bring public safety and information technology (IT) staff and other interested representatives from your Nation to the Tribal consultation. Any participants are also encouraged to stay and join ONAP's workshop the next day.

If time permits, we may offer a listening session opportunity for those that are not Tribal leaders to provide remarks at the conclusion of the consultation. If you cannot personally attend and wish to designate a proxy(ies), please specify who is authorized to speak on your behalf in the registration email. You may also send any questions ahead of the consultation to Tribal.Events@fcc.gov; this email address is monitored by the FCC's Office of Native Affairs and Policy.

Statements Requested for Tribal Consultation: All Tribal leaders or their designees who plan to provide a statement during the consultation are encouraged to share a written version of their statement for the proceeding record. We suggest that you submit your statement before the event, but we will also accept statements submitted after the consultation has taken place. *Please send consultation statements to ONAP at Native@fcc.gov.*

Invitation to attend ONAP's Tribal Workshop on May 15th: We also encourage you to attend the Commission's free Tribal Workshop on May 15th. The FCC will be providing important updates about its programs, FCC resources for consumers, and an overview and demonstration of the National Broadband Map and how to submit a challenge. There will also be presentations from the United States Department of Agriculture (Rural Utilities Service) and the Department of Commerce (National Telecommunications and Information Administration).

Please indicate in your request if you would like to attend the Tribal Consultation, the FCC's Tribal Workshop, or both by sending your name, title, Tribal affiliation, and contact information, with the subject line "May 15 Workshop" to Tribal.Events@fcc.gov.

Tribal workshops provide information that will help Tribal Nations identify and evaluate opportunities to develop more robust broadband infrastructure and services in Tribal communities. They are also designed to provide information about the FCC and how it conducts its regulatory responsibilities, and to encourage Tribal participation in the regulatory process. Tribal leaders, Tribal IT managers, government and community planners and managers, Tribal enterprise specialists, and representatives of Tribal social service agencies, schools, and libraries are all persons who should consider attending these events.

NPRM Background for May 14 Consultation: The EAS and Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) systems are used to provide notice of emergencies including severe weather events, natural disasters, civil emergencies, such as AMBER alerts for individuals under the age of 17, and law enforcement warnings. These emergency alerts provide critical information and empower affected communities to take appropriate action and aid public safety officials in their efforts to address emergencies.

In proposing to establish a dedicated EAS MEP event code, the FCC seeks to facilitate the more efficient and widespread dissemination of alerts and coordinated responses to incidents involving all missing and endangered persons – including Indigenous persons – across multiple

jurisdictions. Specifically, the proposed new MEP event code will allow for the transmission of “Ashanti Alerts” associated with missing or abducted persons over the age of 17 from states, territories, or Tribal communities to the public over the EAS.

The Framing Paper for this consultation is attached and will be posted on the Events Page for the consultation and Tribal Workshop: <https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2024/05/fcc-tribal-workshop-wyandotte-oklahoma>.

We hope that you will be able to participate in this important discussion and we value your time and participation. If you have questions regarding this consultation, you can also contact Bambi.Kraus@fcc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DBKRAUS". The letters are slanted and connected in a cursive style.

Bambi Kraus

Chief, Office of Native Affairs and Policy

Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau