

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
FOR
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE
OFFICE OF THE STATEWIDE 9-1-1 ADMINISTRATOR

Hancock/Henderson County Joint ETSB,)	
Applicant.)	
)	ISP-20-C-276
)	
Application for 9-1-1 Consolidation)	

RECOMMENDED DECISION

I. BACKGROUND

On July 30, 2020, Hancock/Henderson County Joint ETSB (the “Applicant”) filed a Consolidation Plan (“Consolidation Plan” or “Plan”) with the Office of the Statewide 9-1-1 Administrator pursuant to Section 15.4a of the Emergency Telephone System Act (“ETSA”). 50 ILCS 750/15.4a. Hancock County currently operates an Emergency Telephone System Board (“ETSB). The Plan proposes the addition of Henderson County to the ETSB to form a Joint Emergency Telephone System Board (JETSB). Upon consolidation according to the Consolidation Plan, the Hancock County Public Safety Answering Point (“PSAP”) will continue to be used for both counties. The joint ETSB will change its 9-1-1 System Provider from Frontier to INdigital Telecom (INdigital). The system will be provisioned as an IP based NG911 system.

Currently, Henderson County offers no 9-1-1 service to its residence in the County, however McDonough County was granted authority to receive and handle Henderson County wireless 9-1-1 calls. Under 50 ILCS 750/15.4a (7), the corporate authorities of each county that has no 9-1-1 service as of January 1, 2016, shall provide enhanced 9-1-1 wireline and wireless enhanced 9-1-1 service for that county by either (i) entering into an intergovernmental agreement with an existing ETSB or to create a new joint ETSB, or (ii) entering into an intergovernmental agreement with the corporate authorities that have

created an existing joint ETSB. As a result of this legislation, Henderson County is required to provide 9-1-1 service to its residence by consolidating with another ETSB. Under the consolidation plan Hancock County proposes to consolidate with Henderson County and establish a Joint ETSB to be served by one PSAP located in Hancock County. Under the joint system Hancock County PSAP will receive all 9-1-1 calls for Hancock as well as Henderson County. Additionally, McDonough County will no longer take wireless 9-1-1 calls for Henderson County.

On August 20, 2020, Illinois State Police (ISP) staff, Ms. Marci Elliott, issued a Department Review of Consolidation reporting on a technical review of the Consolidation Plan, as required by the Sections 1324.200(f)(1) and the Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) modification as required by Section 1325.205 of the Regulations.

An administrative hearing was held before a duly authorized Administrative Law Judge, Michelle Thielen, on September 2, 2020. Maria Hopp, 911 Administrator for Hancock County was present and testified. Ms. Hopp testified to that Henderson County is currently served by McDonough County for its 9-1-1 wireless calls and upon consolidation all 9-1-1 calls for Henderson County would be served by Hancock County. Ms. Hopp testified there is not a cost savings in the consolidation as Henderson County was not currently paying for a 9-1-1 system as the wired 9-1-1 calls are transferred to the Sheriff's office. Ms. Hopp testified there were no objections to her knowledge to the proposed Consolidation Plan and in her opinion, it is the best interest of the two counties to consolidate into one 9-1-1 system.

Attorney Bond called Ms. Marci Elliott as a witness. Ms. Elliott testified she is the 9-1-1 program manager for the Illinois State Police 9-1-1 Bureau. Ms. Elliott stated she prepared the Department Review of Consolidation. Ms. Elliott indicated that no comments had been received by the Department regarding the Consolidation Plan. Neither the Illinois Commerce Commission or the public had concerns or objections to the Consolidation Plan. Ms. Elliott indicated the Department recommends approval of the Consolidation Plan without any alterations and without delay.

II. EVIDENCE

The evidence adduced at the Hearing is:

1. The Consolidation Application dated May 5, 2020;
2. The Department Review of Consolidation dated July 19, 2019¹, authored by Marci Elliott; and,
3. The presentation and explanation of the Consolidation Plan presented by Ms. Maria Hopp;

III. CONSOLIDATION PLAN

The Consolidation Plan and the testimony of the witnesses at the hearing established the following facts:

- A. Hancock County operated an ETSB.
- B. Henderson County's wireless 9-1-1 calls were serviced by McDonough County
- C. The two counties have entered into an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) to Consolidate into a joint 9-1-1 system.

IV. TECHNICAL REVIEW

The technical review performed by Ms. Elliott concludes that Applicant's consolidation plan meets the requirements for a consolidation plan as prescribed by Section 1324.200(c) and 1325.205 of the Consolidation of 9-1-1 Emergency Systems and Standards of Service Applicable to 9-1-1 Emergency Systems Regulations. Cost Projections, Network Costs, Back-up PSAP Agreement or Call-Handling and Aid Agreements have been supplied to the Statewide 9-1-1 Administrator. The Technical Review indicates that the proposed Hancock/Henderson County Joint ETSB complies with necessary requirements for approval of the Consolidation Plan.

V. FINDINGS OF FACT AND RECOMMENDATION

HAVING REVIEWED the entire record herein and being fully advised in the premises, it is:

- A. FOUND that:

¹ At the hearing, Ms. Elliott testified the correct date should be August 20, 2020.

1. The Consolidation Plan furthers the statutory goal of ETSA to establish 9-1-1 as the primary emergency telephone number for use in the State of Illinois. ETSA further states the statutory goal that “it is in the public interest to shorten the time required for a citizen to request and receive emergency aid.” 50 ILCS 750/1. This goal will be furthered with the approval of this Consolidation Plan.
2. The Consolidation Plan meets the requirements for a consolidation plan as required by Section 200(c) of Part 1324 of the Regulations.
3. In particular, the Consolidation Plan includes a completed application consisting of the following documents:
 - a. Contact and 9-1-1 system information;
 - b. Sworn statement of attesting to the truth of the information provided in the Plan;
 - c. Letter that is sent to the 9-1-1 system provider with a copy of the Plan; and
 - d. Summary of the proposed system’s operation, including information as to how the plan will assist with achieving the statutory goals enumerated in ETSA Section 5.4b(a). 83 Ill. Adm. Code 1324.200(c)(1).
4. In addition, the Consolidation Plan provides the following in compliance with Section 200(c)(1)(F) -(I) of Part 1324 of the Regulations:
 - a. List of all communities that are served by the 9-1-1 system;
 - b. List of public safety agencies that are dispatched by the 9-1-1 system;
 - c. List of the public safety agencies that are adjacent to the 9-1-1 system’s geographic boundaries; and
 - d. List of the carriers and interconnection VoIP providers that are known by the Applicant to provide service within the jurisdiction of the 9-1-1 system.
5. The Applicant has attached to the Consolidation Plan the following documents as required by Section 200(c)(1)(J) of Part 1324:
 - a. A local ordinance that dissolves an existing ETSB;
 - b. An intergovernmental agreement creating a Joint ETSB or any other agreements pertinent to the 9-1-1 system consolidation;

- d. The network diagram that is provided by the 9-1-1 system provider; and
- e. The Call Handling and Aid Outside Jurisdictional Boundaries Agreements, 83 Ill. Adm. Code 1324.200(c)(1)(J).

B. DETERMINED that:

1. The Hancock/Henderson County Joint ETSB has filed a 9-1-1 Consolidation Plan pursuant to 50 ILCS 750/15.4a of the Emergency Telephone System Act;
2. The Hancock/Henderson County Joint ETSB Consolidation Plan furthers the statutory goals of the Emergency Telephone System Act;
3. The Hancock/Henderson County Joint ETSB Consolidation Plan meets the requirements of 83 Ill. Adm. Code 1324.200(c).
4. The Hancock/Henderson County Joint ETSB NG9-1-1 modification meets the requirements of 83 Ill. Adm. Code 1325.205; and
5. The Hancock/Henderson County Joint ETSB Consolidation Plan should be approved.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that the Hancock/Henderson County Joint ETSB Consolidation Plan be approved, subject to the condition identified above.

This Recommended Decision of the Administrative Law Judge is issued this 9th day of September 2020.

CMS Bureau of Administrative Hearings



Michelle Thielen
Administrative Law Judge

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the foregoing Recommended Decision was served upon the parties of record to the above cause by electronic mail on September 10, 2020, addressed to such parties as shown below. The original was filed with the Bureau of Administrative Hearings as a part of the permanent case file, currently in the possession of the administrative law judge and to be delivered to the Department of State Police upon the conclusion of this matter.



Michelle Thielen
Administrative Law Judge

Service by Electronic Mail to:
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