

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

Union/Alexander County Joint ETSB,)	
Applicant.)	
)	16-C-129
)	
Application for 9-1-1 Consolidation)	

RECOMMENDED DECISION

I. BACKGROUND

On November 27, 2018, Union/Alexander County Regional 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. The Applicant currently operates an Emergency Telephone System Board (“ETSB”). The Plan proposes the addition of Alexander County to the ETSB to form a Joint Emergency Telephone System Board (JETSB). Upon consolidation according to the Consolidation Plan, the system will be changing its 911 System Provider from NG911, Inc. to INdigital, Inc. and will have redundant Legacy Network Gateways (LNG’s) and Emergency Service Routing Proxy’s (ESRP’s) otherwise referred to as selective routers that will handle all call routing for the Public Safety Answering Point (“PSAP”).

Under Section 15.4a(a)(6) of the Emergency Telephone System Act, 50 ILCS 750/15.4a(a)(6), any 9-1-1 Authority that does not have a PSAP within its jurisdiction shall be consolidated through an intergovernmental agreement with an existing 9-1-1 Authority that has a PSAP to create a Joint Emergency Telephone Board. Alexander County does not have a PSAP but rather currently contracts with Pulaski County for 9-1-1 call handling and dispatching. Under the consolidation plan, Alexander County

proposes to consolidate with Union County and establish a Joint ETSB to be served by one PSAP located in Union County. Neither county individually serves a population greater than 25,000¹. The regulations promulgated pursuant to the ETSA specify the procedures and requirements of such a consolidation plan, 83 Ill. Adm. Code 1324.200, *et. seq.* (the “Regulations”).

On December 13, 2018, Illinois State Police 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 1325.205 of the Regulations, 83 Ill. Adm. Code 1324.200(f)(1) and 83 Ill. Adm. Code 1325.205.

An administrative hearing was held before a duly authorized Administrative Law Judge, Michelle Thielen, on January 25, 2019. Crystal Gurley, Union and Alexander County 911 Director, appeared in support of the Consolidation Plan. Debra Prather, Director of Regulatory Affairs for INdigital Telecom was present. Attorney Suzanne Bond appeared for the Illinois State Police. Attorney Bond called Ms. Marci Elliot as a witness. Ms. Elliott testified she prepared the Department Review of Consolidation and 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 stated there were no requests to speak at the hearing. 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 November 27, 2018,
2. The Department Review of Consolidation dated December 13, 2018, authored by Marci Elliott; and,

¹ The Union County ETSB reports in the Plan that it currently serves 17,447 persons and the Alexander County ETSB serves 7,492. The JETSB after consolidation will serve 24,939 persons.

3. The presentation and explanation of the Consolidation Plan presented by Ms. Gurley;

III. CONSOLIDATION PLAN

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

- A. Union and Alexander Counties each operated ETSBs.
- B. Union County has entered into an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Alexander County to Consolidate into a joint 9-1-1 system. Both counties have passed ordinances dissolving their individual ETSBs.

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 Union/Alexander 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. 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).

6. The Consolidation Plan incorporates a next generation (NG9-1-1) solution, which meets the requirements set forth in Section 1325.205 of the Regulations.

B. DETERMINED that:

1. The Union/Alexander 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 Union/Alexander County Joint ETSB Consolidation Plan furthers the statutory goals of the Emergency Telephone System Act;
3. The Union/Alexander County Joint ETSB Consolidation Plan meets the requirements of 83 Ill. Adm. Code 1324.200(c) and 83 Ill. Adm. Code 1325.205; and
4. The Union/Alexander County Joint ETSB Consolidation Plan should be approved.

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

This Recommended Decision of the Administrative Law Judge is issued this 28th day of January 2019.

**BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS**

Dated: January 28, 2019



Michelle Thielen,
Administrative Law Judge

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
CMS BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
FOR
ILLINOIS STATE POLICE**

Union/Alexander County Joint ETSB)	
)	Case No. 16-C-129
Application for Consolidation Plan)	

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 January 28, 2019, 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 Hearing Officer and to be delivered to the Department of State Police upon the conclusion of this matter.



Michelle Thielen
Administrative Law Judge

Suzanne Bond
Legal Counsel
Illinois State Police
801 S. Seventh St., Suite 300-S
Springfield, IL 62703
Suzanne_Bone@isp.state.il.us

Crystal Gurley
309 W. Market St. Room 016
Jonesboro, IL 62952
cgurley@unioncountyil.gov

Office of Statewide 911 Administrator
801 South Seventh St., Suite 300-N
Springfield, IL 2703
911_Tech_Support@isp.state.il.us