

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

E-COM & SouthCOM JETSB,)	
)	
Applicant.)	
)	24-C-398
)	
Application for 9-1-1 Consolidation)	

RECOMMENDED DECISION

I. BACKGROUND

On November 27, 2024, the E-COM Dispatch Center (the “Applicant”) filed a Consolidation Plan (“Consolidation Plan” or “Plan”) with the Office of the Statewide 9-1-1 Administrator pursuant to 83 Ill. Adm. Code 1324. The Applicant proposes to create a Joint Emergency Telephone System Board (“JETSB”) by Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement entered into by and among the participating municipalities. The JETSB will be known as E-COM & SouthCom JETSB.

On December 10, 2024, Illinois State Police staff, Catherine Dailey, issued a Review of Consolidation reporting on a technical review of the Consolidation Plan, as required by Section 1324.200(f)(1) of the Regulations, 83 Ill. Adm. Code 1324.200(f)(1).

An administrative hearing was held before a duly authorized Administrative Law Judge, Kerry Sutton, on February 13, 2025. Mr. Craig Kowalski, Executive Director of E-COM Dispatch Center, appeared in support of the Consolidation Plan. Attorney Ericka Thomas appeared on behalf of both E-COM and SouthCom. SouthCom Director Athena Barnes was also present. Mr. Kowalski testified concerning the Consolidation Plan’s narrative and detailed the benefits that would be realized through a consolidation. Elizabeth Lepic appeared for the Illinois State Police and Catherine Dailey appeared for 9-1-1 Statewide Bureau Technical Review. Dailey stated that no comments had been received by the Department regarding the Consolidation Plan and that there were no requests to speak at the hearing. Dailey testified that the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) was afforded the opportunity to review the

Consolidation Plan and there was no objection. Dailey further testified that the Plan meets all requirements for consolidation of a 9-1-1 System.

II. EVIDENCE

The evidence presented at the Hearing is:

1. The Consolidation Application filed November 27, 2024;
2. The Department Review of Consolidation dated December 10, 2024 authored by Catherine Dailey; and
3. The presentation and explanation of the Consolidated Plan presented by Craig Kowalski.

III. CONSOLIDATION PLAN

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

1. E-COM and SouthCom have formed the E-COM and SouthCom Joint Emergency Telecommunications Services Board by Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement;
2. Contemporaneous with the formation of the E-COM and SouthCom JETSB, each agency, with the exception of Olympia Fields, currently participating in either E-COM or SouthCom, have signed resolutions to suspend and dissolve their former Joint Emergency Telephone System Board and enter into the E-COM and SouthCom JETSB.

IV. TECHNICAL REVIEW

The technical review performed by Catherine Dailey concludes the Applicant's consolidation plan meets the requirement for a consolidation plan as prescribed by Section 1324.200(c) of the Consolidation of 9-1-1 Emergency System 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

E-Com and SouthCom JETSB 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.

B. DETERMINED that:

1. E-COM and SouthCom JETSB has filed a 9-1-1 Consolidation Plan pursuant to 83 Ill. Adm. Code 1324.200(c).
2. E-COM and SouthCom Joint ETSB Consolidation Plan furthers the statutory goals of the Emergency Telephone System Act. 50 ILCS 750.
3. E-COM and SouthCom Joint ETSB Consolidation Plan meets the requirements of 83 Ill. Adm. Code 1324.200(c); and
4. The E-COM and SouthCom Joint ETSB Consolidation Plan should be approved.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that the E-COM and SouthCom Joint ETSB Consolidation plan be approved.

This Recommended Decision of the Administrative Law Judge is issued this 20th day of February, 2025.

Dated: February 20, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kerry Sutton', written over a horizontal line.

Kerry Sutton
Administrative Law Judge