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National Emergency
Number Association



NENA Clarifies Position on NEXTEL Proposal

Nation's 9-1-1 Organization Reviewing Proposal from NEXTEL to Provide \$25M to APCO International or Affiliated Entity

Columbus, Ohio (February 7, 2002)—The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) announced today that its Executive Board is aware that a proposal made by NEXTEL and the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials International (APCO) has been offered to public safety. NENA wishes to inform its membership that the Association has just learned of this proposal, and that its Executive Board, while still gaining knowledge about the nature of the proposal, has made the following observations:

- NENA believes a grant to the operating funds of NENA and/or APCO would call to question the independence of each organization's FCC and regulatory representation function on wireless and radio spectrum issues currently, and in the future.
- Direct grants from wireless carriers to NENA, APCO, or a controlled organization of either or both organizations raises a question of independence, and may jeopardize the ability of public safety to speak in an independent and objective manner in the long term.
- It is reasonable and directly foreseeable to assume that both public safety organizations may have an opposing regulatory position with NEXTEL and other wireless carriers in the future. This concern extends to foreseeable radio spectrum issues, as well as the current Wireless Phase II process that is still fully open, and likely to have more issues requiring public safety advocacy.
- An APCO document in the public domain that indicates NENA's support for Project LOCATE is a supporting consideration for the NEXTEL proposal is inaccurate. While a partner organization to Project LOCATE for the purpose of encouraging 50 model Wireless Case Studies, NENA was not a part in negotiations with NEXTEL or APCO for the \$25M as proposed in the APCO document.
- NENA believes it is in the interest of all stakeholders to continue to work with the US Department of Transportation to provide a neutral and credible coalition to promote Wireless Phase II implementation. (See http://www.nena.org/Initiatives/NENA_DOT/nena_dot.htm)
- With the foregoing considerations, NENA does not wish to discourage NEXTEL or other organizations from contributing funds to the considerable needs of public safety organizations. On the contrary, NENA encourages that stakeholders convene to establish a completely neutral and detached governmental recipient of these funds (USTA for example) that would serve as a granting organization for the funds donated under by NEXTEL and subsequent benefactors.

- NENA believes that under those conditions, APCO, NENA, and other independent stakeholders should provide the actual governance and control of donated funds to ensure that the public safety community will receive the maximum and most appropriate benefit from these funds. This structure would also guarantee that both NENA and APCO would have real and perceived independence as regulatory advocates on behalf of their respective public safety memberships.

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NENA is a public nonprofit educational foundation, organized under IRC 501(c) (3). NENA's exclusive mission is to foster the development and implementation of 9-1-1 as a universal emergency number. NENA has more than 7,000 members, most of whom manage the 7,000 primary 9-1-1 centers that answer and process 9-1-1 calls. As a part of its mission, NENA also develops recommended standards and protocol for 9-1-1 services. NENA's international headquarters is located in Columbus, Ohio.