

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sonya Carius, (800) 332-3911

National Emergency
Number Association



Wireless Carrier Technology Plans Concern NENA *9-1-1 Experts to Review Filings and Provide Analysis of Carrier Plans*

Columbus, Ohio (November 29, 1999)—On November 9, 2000, wireless phone service carriers were required to provide the FCC with important information regarding their plans to introduce Phase II wireless location service to 9-1-1 centers in America. After reviewing the posted filings, the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) is concerned that the majority of them suggest carriers are using the November 9 filing as a prelude to additional waivers from the FCC wireless rules.

“While some carriers should be commended for their thorough and detailed technology plans, too many of them have submitted incomplete filings and/or filings that failed to provide the specific elements called for in the FCC Third Report and Order,” said Norman Forshee, NENA president.

NENA has reviewed the filings posted on the FCC public domain web site at this time and is circulating an analysis summary of the filed technology plans. (See <www.fcc.gov/wtb/e911/>.)

“We intend to provide 9-1-1 systems, the FCC, and other stakeholders with our assessment of what these technology plans tell us about the progress to date on wireless Phase II,” Forshee added. “The summary we are preparing will grade the filings with regard to completeness, and it will provide our members with an idea of what technology choices have been made by the wireless carriers.” In addition, NENA’s 9-1-1 technical and operational experts will review the analysis, which has a targeted release date of December 4, 2000. For more information, please refer to the Association’s web site at <www.nena9-1-1.org>.

In addition to the technology plans, Nextel and other wireless carriers also proposed waiver requests for additional time to implement Phase II service due to technological issues. NENA intends to research whether these requests, filed with the technology plans, are procedurally appropriate and to examine the merits of each request independently.

“NENA is in a unique position to review these requests and to evaluate the state of the related technologies. We will ask our technical experts to review these waiver requests, and we will make a prompt analysis of the waiver requests that are present in the November 9 filings,” Forshee concluded.

#

NENA is the only organization dedicated solely to the promotion and implementation of 9-1-1 as America’s universal emergency number. NENA’s 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 4,300 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.