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Revised E-911 Standards and Benchmarks Released

New levels phase in over next five years

Patrick Murck
murck@fhhlaw.com
703-812-0476

As we reported in last month's *FHH Telecom Law*, the FCC set new Phase II E-911 benchmarks. The Commission has now released the full details of that order and we have them for you here.

By September 11, 2012, carriers will have to meet the following Phase II E-911 standards as measured at the PSAP service area level: (a) for network-based technologies 100 meters for 67% of calls and 300 meters for 95% of calls; and (b) for handset-based technologies 50 meters for 67% of calls and 150 meters for 95% of calls. These are the same substantive standards (for the time being) that have applied for several years, but establishing compliance at the PSAP level will be much more difficult for carriers. The new rules have already been challenged in court by the industry association and individual carriers.

The Commission also set up annual interim benchmarks that carriers must meet along the way to full compliance. They are:

- by September 11, 2008, carriers will have to meet the Phase II E-911 standards within each Economic Area the carrier serves;
- by September 11, 2009, carriers must file a status report describing its efforts to implement Phase II E-911;
- by September 11, 2010, carriers will have to meet the Phase II E-911 standards within each Metropolitan Statistical Area and Rural Service Area the carrier serves. Additionally, by this date carriers will have to demonstrate PSAP-level compliance within at least 75% of the PSAP's in their service area and must meet a reduced accuracy requirement (within 50% of the 2012 requirements) for *all* PSAP's in their coverage area; and

- by September 11, 2011 carriers must again file a status report describing its efforts to implement Phase II E-911.

It should be noted that for all the PSAP-level requirements codified in this new rule, they only apply to PSAP's that are at the time capable of receiving Phase II E-911 information.