

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Amendment of Part 11 of the Commission's Rules	)	PS Docket No. 15-94
Regarding the Emergency Alert System	)	
	)	
Wireless Emergency Alerts	)	PS Docket No. 15-91

**ORDER**

**Adopted: May 5, 2016****Released: May 5, 2016****Extended Comment Filing Deadline: June 8, 2016****Extended Reply Comment Filing Deadline: July 8, 2016**

By the Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau:

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. On April 19, 2016, Monroe Electronics, Inc. (Monroe) filed a request for extension of time to respond to the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* in the above-captioned proceeding.<sup>1</sup> On April 29, 2016, the National Alliance of State Broadcasters Associations (NASBA) also filed a motion for extension of time for comments and reply comments on the *NPRM*.<sup>2</sup> Filings in support of these requests for extension of time have been made by the Broadcast Warning Working Group (BWWG) and the Washington State Emergency Communications Committee (Washington State SECC).<sup>3</sup> For the reasons stated below, we grant parties an additional thirty (30) days to file comments and reply comments. The new dates, as indicated above, will be June 8, 2016 for comments and July 8, 2016 for reply comments.

**II. BACKGROUND**

2. On January 29, 2016, the Commission released the *NRPM*.<sup>4</sup> On March 24, 2016, a summary of the *NPRM* was published in the Federal Register, setting the dates for comments and reply comments as May 9, 2016 and June 7, 2016, respectively.<sup>5</sup> Subsequently, Monroe and the other parties mentioned

<sup>1</sup> Monroe Electronics, Inc., Request for Extension to the Filing Deadline in Regards to the Above Referenced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, PS Docket No. 15-94 (filed April 19, 2016) (*Monroe Request*).

<sup>2</sup> National Alliance of State Broadcasters Associations, Motion for Extension of Deadlines for Filing Comments and Reply Comments, PS Docket Nos. 15-94, 15-91 (filed April 29, 2016) (*NASBA Motion*).

<sup>3</sup> See Broadcast Warning Working Group Comments, PS Docket No. 15-94 (filed April 25, 2016) (*BWWG Comments*); Comments of the Washington State SECC In Support of an Extension to the Deadline to File Comments in the Above Reference Proceeding, PS Docket Nos. 15-94, 15-91 (filed May 2, 2016) (*Washington State SECC Comments*).

<sup>4</sup> *Amendment of Part 11 of the Commission's Rules Regarding the Emergency Alert System, Wireless Emergency Alerts*, PS Docket Nos. 15-94, 15-91, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 31 FCC Rcd 594 (2016).

<sup>5</sup> See Federal Communications Commission, 47 CFR Part 11, *Rules Regarding the Emergency Alert System and Wireless Emergency Alerts*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 81 Fed. Reg. 15792 (Mar. 24, 2016).

above filed their requests for extension of the comment and reply periods.

3. In the *NPRM*, the Commission sought comment on proposals intended to strengthen the Emergency Alert System (EAS) by facilitating state and local involvement, supporting greater testing and awareness of the system, leveraging technological advances, and enhancing EAS security.<sup>6</sup> Monroe asserts that the *NPRM* “presents truly important, fundamental, and very far reaching questions on the architecture and operations of the nation’s Emergency Alert System.”<sup>7</sup> Monroe also notes that the comment period for the *NPRM* coincides with the period for comments in response to the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau’s recent inquiry on earthquake-related emergency alerts.<sup>8</sup> Accordingly, Monroe asserts that the Commission should extend the deadline for filing comments by 45 days “to allow industry additional time to adequately consider the many questions raised by the Commission, and present meaningful commentary and response.”<sup>9</sup> NASBA states that the *NPRM* raises a large number of issues and questions that are of great importance to the effective functioning of the nation’s public alert and warning systems and that it will need an extension of time to prepare comments that adequately and accurately reflect the views of State Broadcasters Associations and their respective local broadcast members.<sup>10</sup> NASBA asks the Commission for a 45-day extension of the comment period and a 30-day extension of the reply comment period.<sup>11</sup>

### III. DISCUSSION

4. It is the policy of the Commission that extensions of time are not routinely granted.<sup>12</sup> Such extensions may, however, be warranted when, among other things, the additional time will serve the public interest.<sup>13</sup> In the instant proceeding, we acknowledge that a cross section of affected stakeholders (*i.e.*, Monroe, an EAS equipment manufacturer, NASBA and the BWWG, broadcaster associations, and the Washington State SECC, a volunteer public safety association), agree that providing additional time for interested parties to file comments would be beneficial to the development of a thorough and complete record. In particular we note Monroe’s intent to address the wide variety of important and fundamental issues with respect to the architecture and operation of the EAS raised by the *NPRM*,<sup>14</sup> and recognize that NASBA will need time to gather input from its members to address the breadth and complexity of the issues that are raised in the *NPRM*.<sup>15</sup> That being said, we also note that the *NPRM* has been available for

<sup>6</sup> See *NPRM*, 31 FCC Rcd at 595, para. 1.

<sup>7</sup> *Monroe Request* at 1.

<sup>8</sup> See *Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Seeks Comment on Ways to Facilitate Earthquake-Related Emergency Alerts*, PS Docket No. 16-32, Public Notice, DA 16-380 (PSHSB 2016); see also *Washington State SECC Comments* at 1-2 (noting that the deadlines for the *NPRM* coincide with those of the request for comment on earthquake-related emergency alerts).

<sup>9</sup> See *Monroe Request* at 1.

<sup>10</sup> See *NASBA Motion* at 1-2.

<sup>11</sup> *NASBA Motion* at 1.

<sup>12</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

<sup>13</sup> See, *e.g.*, *Service Rules for Advanced Wireless Services in the 2155-2175 MHz Band, Service Rules for Advanced Wireless Services in the 1915-1920 MHz, 1995-2000 MHz, 2020-2025 MHz and 2175-2180 MHz Bands*, WT Docket Nos. 04-356, 07-195, Order, 23 FCC Rcd 10527, 10528, para. 4 (WTB 2008); *Review of the Emergency Alert System*, EB Docket No. 04-296, Order, 25 FCC Rcd 1849, 1850, para. 3 (PSHSB 2010).

<sup>14</sup> *Monroe Request* at 1.

<sup>15</sup> *NASBA Motion* at 2; see also *BWWG Comments* at 1 (noting that that many potential commenters are currently involved in meeting Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council (CSRIC) working group deadlines).

review since January, and that we must honor our commitment to resolving the issues raised in the *NPRM* in a timely manner. Thus, we do not believe that a 45-day extension is necessary to give interested parties a full opportunity to submit their views. Rather, we believe that granting a 30-day extension of time for parties to file comments and replies strikes a balance that serves the public interest. Accordingly, we extend the comment deadline to June 8, 2016, and the reply comment deadline to July 8, 2016.<sup>16</sup>

#### IV. ORDERING CLAUSE

5. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to Section 4(i) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 154(i), and Sections 0.191, 0.392, and 1.46 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.191, 0.392, and 1.46, that the Request for Extension to the Filing Deadline filed by Monroe and the Motion for Extension of Deadlines filed by NASBA are GRANTED to the EXTENT SET FORTH HEREIN, and that the comment deadline in this proceeding is extended to June 8, 2016, and the reply comment deadline is extended to July 8, 2016.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

David Grey Simpson  
Rear Admiral (ret.) USN  
Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

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<sup>16</sup> We extend the comment deadline by 30 days and extend the reply comment deadline to afford 30 days for replies after the extended comment deadline.