

TOWN OF SCOTLAND

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Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications
111 Country Club Road
Middletown, CT 06457

RE: Docket No. 13-01

To Whom It May Concern:

I am offering the following comments of the proposed regulation changes regarding subsidization of regional public safety emergency telecommunications centers, multi-town PSAPs, and eligible municipalities.

Multiple studies have been conducted to explore the efficiencies and cost effectiveness of the consolidation of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and the creation of Regional Emergency Communications Centers (RECCs). The Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications (DSET) has failed to implement such consolidation which has cost Connecticut taxpayers millions of dollars over the years. The studies have shown where the efficiencies and cost effectiveness of consolidation would provide for the financial sustainability for E911 service within the current DSET budget. DSET should concentrate on mandating consolidations instead of reducing budgets of those who have made an effort to become more efficient through state supported regionalism efforts—the current formula has worked well for towns and municipalities that have consolidated.

The DSET proposal states in its notice of “Proposed Regulatory Change” that the current 17-year old formula “short-changes smaller, less efficient RECCs.” It is inconceivable that DSET would propose a formula that would work to maintain less efficient PSAPs and RECCs which obviates the recommendations of the Legislative Task Force study from 1996, the MORE commission, and those of a subcommittee of the E911 Commission of 2004-05.

Current RECCs provide E911 service to 35.3% of the state’s square area or approximately 44% of all municipalities and towns. The DSET proposal of reduced funding (\$550,000) from current RECC’s budgets to “smaller, less efficient RECCs/PSAPs” would provide service to only 13.4% of the state’s area. Changes in the current formula structure would have a significant negative financial impact on the current RECCs. This negative impact cost would be passed on to those towns and municipalities who have made the effort to become more efficient with Public Safety money. By placing an additional local financial burden onto those efficient towns and municipalities would, in effect, be rewarding those towns and municipalities who have refused to consolidate services and is totally unacceptable.

The Town of Scotland vehemently opposes the current proposal to change the RECC funding formula.

Very truly yours,

Daniel D. Syme, First Selectman
Town of Scotland