

# Clinton County Department of Emergency Services

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## Narrowband Radio Project Update

December, 2012

Final Report #21

### **INTRODUCTION**

While it seemed like a long road, we finally made the transition to our new narrowband compliant radio system. Official cut over occurred on Tuesday October 16<sup>th</sup>, with law enforcement/police being cut over in the morning and then the fire/EMS system being cut over during the evening. Transition of the law enforcement/police side went very smoothly and no issues were encountered. However, we did have a couple of little glitches during transition of the fire and EMS side, which put us behind schedule. However, in the end it all worked out and we were completely operational by about 10:00 PM.

With our transition complete, we are now operating on a narrowband compliant radio system. Needless to say, we are well ahead of the **December 31, 2012** deadline for meeting the FCC Narrowband requirement. I know there are some folks out there working to finalize your licensing and get radio equipment reprogrammed or replaced. The clock is ticking and you do not have much time left. So if you need any help or have questions, please feel free to call.

### **SYSTEM TESTING**

TransCore conducted their system testing and optimization during the week of October 8, 2012. While for the most part testing went well, a coverage issue was identified. Through further testing, TransCore was able to identify the problem and correct the issue.

While the new system has been turned on and we have encountered no issues, we continue to look for your feedback. The County IT Department has created an online reporting system for our use. All fire, EMS and law enforcement agencies have been assigned at least one (1) login and password for access to the reporting system. We would encourage you to use this system to report any coverage issues, as well as report any positive experiences you have had with the radio system. We have a high degree of confidence in how the system is functioning. However, the only way we know for certain how the system is performing is through your feedback to us. So please take the time to follow through and let us know how things are working.

### **SYSTEM ACCEPTANCE**

Clinton County has officially taken ACCEPTANCE of the new radio system. A final walk through and inspection of all the tower sites and shelter facilities was conducted on Friday November 30, 2012 and we found no issues. We have a couple of small projects, which were addendums or add-ons after the county entered into contract with TransCore. Those projects include upgrade of the alarming system at the tower sites and installation of an emergency generator for the shelter building located here at the DES facility. We anticipate this work will be completed by the end of the year. Bottom line, we have accepted the radio system based on the results of the radio testing we have completed and the final inspection of the work completed at all of our sites.

### **MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR**

This is the FINAL REPORT you will be receiving related to Clinton County's Narrowband Radio Project. Getting across the finish line was three (3) years in the making, and we were well ahead of the curve in achieving our goal. Clinton County was cut over and we are operating on our new narrowband compliant radio system well ahead of the **December 31, 2012** deadline.

In closing I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation and support as we worked through this project. Because of the time we spent planning and preparing, the system we have upgraded to meets Clinton County's public safety two-way radio needs for today. Additionally, the new system contains functionality, which will allow us to cost effectively manage future needs and expansion.

I am hopeful everyone has done their due diligence and taken the necessary action to meet the FCC Narrowband requirement as it relates to your specific agency or organization. If you are still in process and need assistance, or if you have questions please do not hesitate to call. The Department of Emergency Services remains committed to working as a resource for local municipal government and the public safety community. I would ask that you share this document with your fellow public safety personnel and municipal officials. As always should you have questions, please feel free to contact me directly by telephone or Email. My office phone is **(570) 893-4090 ext. 3407**, and my Email address is [kfanning@ClintonCountyPA.com](mailto:kfanning@ClintonCountyPA.com). Best wishes to all for a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season. The Department of Emergency Services wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

