

# **Clinton County Department of Emergency Services**

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## **Narrowband Radio Project Update**

**September, 2012**

**Report #19**

### ***INTRODUCTION***

Things continue to progress as we move towards cutover to Clinton County's new narrowband compliant public safety two-way radio system. The new dispatch console equipment installation is complete and this portion of the system is now operational. We have had a couple of little bumps in the road, but they have not kept us from finally bring the new Zetron MAX Dispatch Console online. There have been a couple of little items we have identified, but programming adjustments have been made allowing us to overcome these minor glitches with relative ease.

With the new console installation now complete, the focus has shifted to completing radio work at the eight (8) tower sites we will be broadcasting and receiving signal from as part of our public safety two-way radio system. All tower work has been completed and the final push is to bring the new radio equipment online at the various sites. The one site we have struggled with over the last several months is the one located outside the Department of Emergency Services. We have been evaluating several options for shelter space at this location, as it will become a major player in the overall radio system. By including this tower in our system we were in need of being able to adequately secure our radio equipment inside some type of shelter. After several months, we have finally decided on a last minute opportunity, which presented itself. We will be locating our equipment in an existing shelter building already onsite and being used by one of our tenants, whom is renting tower space from the County. This opportunity has allowed us to continue moving and not slow the process, should we have needed to construct a new shelter building or conduct renovation of a different space. Not to mention it is a more cost effective option, which will also afford us options for relocation of the 9-1-1 center in the future as part of the new Department of Emergency Services facility project. Installation of radio equipment at this location will be completed during the week of September 3, 2012.

While things are still progressing well, we have made a change in our proposed date for cutover. In last month's update we anticipated cutover occurring the week of September 24, 2012. In evaluating the schedule and the amount of work needing completed, we felt it would

be best to move cutover to the following week, which will be the week of October 1, 2012. This will give the vendor time to work through some final installation and complete preliminary testing prior to cut over.

In working with our consultant the Cutover Plan has been completed. We will be making this plan available to field users/ subscribers and promoting it throughout the month of September so everyone is aware of the process we will be following on the day of cutover.

As a field user of Clinton County's public safety two-way radio system, you should have had the initial programming of your radio equipment completed. If not, you need to be sure you get this work scheduled to be done. If you have questions about how your radio is to be set-up and the frequencies programmed into it, please do not hesitate to call.

### ***TECHNOLOGY TIMELINE DEVELOPMENT***

We continue to cross items off the list as things are completed. Once all of the equipment has been hooked up, TransCore will be ready to conduct their preliminary testing prior to cutover. We anticipate they will be conducting preliminary testing around the week of September 24, 2012. This will be what we refer to as drive testing and is also the time we will look to be working through the "100 Point Coverage Testing" in preparation for cutover.

Once we have cutover in early October, we will then work through a period of online testing in hopes of taking full acceptance of the system sometime in November 2012. During this online testing period we will be looking for feedback on how the system is operating. We are currently working on the development of a process for the field user community to report feedback electronically and also on paper. This process will be reviewed in more detail during the educational presentations being planned for late August and early September.

### ***OPERATIONAL TIMELINE DEVELOPMENT***

The formal "Cutover Plan" has been completed and is being shared with the subscriber community as part of the education presentations being offered. Additionally, these plans will be reviewed in detail as part of the Clinton County Fire Chiefs Association meeting in September and also during the September Law Enforcement Committee Meeting.

### ***PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION***

As previously mentioned, during our kick-off meeting with TransCore they have proposed a timeline a few weeks shorter than the one we had originally planned for. However, we will continue to use the original timeline projecting acceptance in November of 2012. Regardless, either timeline has us transitioning to the new narrowband compliant radio system well in advance of the **December 31, 2012** deadline. Having given consideration to the details of

this project, in our planning we have done our due diligence and allowed for contingency time in the event we should run into any unexpected issues. We remain confident in the direction we are going and the amount of time we have remaining for implementation and transition.

### ***SYSTEM TESTING***

With hopes of all system components being in place and programming of field user radio equipment complete, system testing will hopefully be conducted throughout September 2012.

### ***SYSTEM CUTOVER***

Upon successful completion of system testing and tuning the County will look to officially cutover to the new radio system during the week of October 1, 2012. Once system cutover is complete we will then schedule an official date for acceptance of the new system.

### ***SYSTEM ACCEPTANCE***

Official acceptance of the new system will follow a period of online use, continued testing/feedback and tuning of the system. Presently the County anticipates System Acceptance occurring in early to mid November 2012.

### ***MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR***

Following a great deal of planning, cooperation and coordination the light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter. With an official date for cutover scheduled, we will soon be operating on our updated and FCC narrowband compliant public safety radio system. While to this point transition has been relatively painless, I would ask for your continued patience and support. I am certain we will be hitting a few more bumps in the road both before and after the cutover is complete. Hopefully, they will be few and far between.

The Department of Emergency Services remains committed to insuring an orderly transition to a narrowband compliant radio system. Furthermore, we will continue working as a resource to 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. Sharing of this document will help to keep everyone informed of the FCC mandate to be narrowband compliant by ***December 31, 2012***. Sharing this document will also help to keep everyone informed of the activities associated with improvements to Clinton County's public safety radio system. 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).