



Shaun Golden
Sheriff

MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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March 5, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17326

Re: Request for Waiver of the Commission's Rules,
Request to Extend Construction Period- WQGU308

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of Monmouth County, New Jersey this letter requests a waiver under section 1.925 of the Commission's rules. Monmouth County asks for additional time to construct and deploy its region wide trunked public safety communications system. The County asks for a waiver of Section 90.629 of the rules relating to the time period by which a system must be placed into operation. This waiver request is based on unexpected delay, over which the County had no control, resulting from the review and approval of the project by the State of New Jersey (NJ). We ask for an additional twelve months to commence operations.

Monmouth County's new trunked P-25 wide area multi-agency radio communications system will consist of multiple sites and use frequencies from several call signs, including WQGU308. To date, the County has retained technical advisors to assist in preparing the system's requirements, defined those requirements, obtained approval from the County's leadership for the project, including funding authorization, obtained the referenced NJ approval and released a Request for Proposal (RFP) as part of the competitive acquisition process. Responses to the RFP are due March 15, 2011.¹

While the need for NJ approval of the project was known, the length of its consideration and resulting delay was not anticipated. While the County responded quickly to NJ's inquiries, it was not in a position to expedite the review. Beyond the State's review of radio projects in excess of \$10 million, was the need to obtain approval of three areas where proprietary technology is involved. These areas involved communications consoles, helicopter mobile units and the microwave infrastructure. It was necessary to present to NJ the benefits of these technologies, the lack of alternatives, the costs involved and the detriment if the technologies were not included in the project's requirements.

Preparing for, responding to inquiries and awaiting NJ's decision accrued between 6-9 months. The effort required obtaining information regarding the equipment,

¹ Turn-Key Countywide UHF P-25 Digital Radio Network, F-161-2010, Monmouth County Purchasing Department. http://199.233.80.43/purchasingonline/bid_details.aspx?Id=F-161-2010&bid_type=0

particularly its market availability or unavailability of the unique requirements at stake. Much of the information had to be obtained from the varied technology sources, reviewed by the County and then submitted to NJ. Until NJ approval was obtained, the County was not in a position to move forward. The County presents no grievance with regard to NJ. It was cooperative, diligent and empathetic to the County's need to move ahead. Yet, the County was not in a position to make demands of NJ or the technology sources or to expedite their review.


Once New Jersey approved the parameters of the project, the County moved forward with a formal solicitation. As noted responses are due March 15, 2011. An award is expected in August 2011. With funding for the project authorized, significant resources have already been expended. Included in the improvements is that the new communications network will afford providing County and municipal agencies a direct path to comply with the Commission's upcoming narrowband technology mandate.

We ask the Commission's understanding of these circumstances and that it grant a 12 month extension. While the entire project will not be complete, we believe the Commission construction deadline will be met by this time. The County commits to providing any updates the Commission determines necessary. A proposed schedule is attached. We urge the Commission to consider and balance the enormous investment already made in the system in both public monies and the technical expertise committed by County employees and its advisors and that it would not be right to squander these resources.

Monmouth County represents its fidelity to the Commission's rules and its responsibility to manage the radio spectrum. Section 1.925(b)(3)(i) of the rules states that the Commission may grant waivers if, among other reasons, "the underlying purpose of the rule(s) would not be served or would be frustrated by application to the instant case, and that a grant of the requested waiver would be in the public interest..." With significant work completed, substantial public monies expended, the record reflecting diligent efforts to construct the system and a projected schedule presented, the public interest will be well served by affording Monmouth County an additional 12 months. It has related the difficulties that hindered and asks the Commission to consider the circumstances as meeting the standards of rules 1.946 and 1.925.

We appreciate the Commission's consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shaun Golden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shaun" and last name "Golden" clearly distinguishable.

Shaun Golden
Sheriff of Monmouth County

Attachment

Project Schedule

Complete- Determine and document requirements for County wide system, obtain approval from County leadership for project and its financing, prepare contract solicitation, obtain State of New Jersey approval, commence competitive acquisition through issuance of a Request for Proposal

March 15, 2011 – Request for Proposals Response Due

August 15, 2011- Award Contract

September 2011- Commence Deployment

February 2012- Pursue Testing

April 2012- Commence operations