



NAAD System Governance Council Update

Public Summary of the June 16, 2020 Meeting

July 30, 2020

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide Last Mile Distributors (LMDs) with an update regarding key NAAD System activities and discussions following the most recent NAAD System Governance Council meeting that was hosted virtually by Pelmorex on June 16, 2020.

Operational Update

Public Awareness Test

The next public test of the Alert Ready system is scheduled for Wednesday, November 25, 2020. The most up-to-date schedule with test times for each province and territory can be accessed [here](#).

Wireless Public Alerting (WPA)

- An update to the WPA service was performed in December 2019 to include better support for accents and additional ASCII characters contained in wireless public alert messages.
- The removal of the event code restriction was completed in February 2020.
- A working group composed of wireless service providers (WSPs), Pelmorex and participating Alert Issuers is currently evaluating new features to include in a release planned for 2021.

Selection of the Alert Distribution Channels

Since December 2019, authorized alert issuers who access the NAAD System alert interface to issue an emergency alert now have the ability to select the broadcast channels for the distribution of the alert. By default, an emergency alert will be sent intrusively to TV, radio and wireless devices. Issuers can now choose to send an alert only to wireless devices or alternatively only to television and radio services.

Text-to-Speech (TTS)

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) are reviewing their lexicons in order to identify necessary improvements to address complaints received recently in regards to the incorrect pronunciation of some location names in the audio version of an alert.

NAAD System Development Update

The NAAD System team continues to develop a new alert interface for use by authorized government agencies to issue, update and end alerts in the system. The project was approved at the October 8, 2019 Council meeting. The alpha release is expected to be completed by this fall. The implementation of the new alert interface will not impact LMDs.

Update from Public Alerting Partners

- The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) completed the implementation of a new internal process that allows them to send AMBER alerts to the NAAD System through a Trusted Feed.
- Public Safety Canada and several provincial and territorial emergency management organisations are having discussions to provide police services with access to the alert system.
- Emergency Management Ontario shared with the NAAD System Governance Council a summary of the findings included in the report on the January 12, 2020 nuclear alert that was sent in error in Ontario.
- Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) is leading a research project on public alerting. The first phase consists of doing research on how the public responds when an emergency alert is issued. Phase 2 will focus on making public alerts available on IP-based devices.

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For more information, please submit your questions to our Pelmorex Public Alerting Support team by completing the following [form](#).