NAAD System Governance Council Update

Public Summary of the October 1, 2020 Meeting

October 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 October 1, 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)

- A working group composed of wireless service providers (WSPs), Pelmorex and participating Alert Issuers is currently evaluating new features to include in an upcoming upgrade of WPA in 2021.
- Wireless service providers are reviewing capital budgets in preparation for a release in 2021.
- Preliminary new features currently under consideration by the working group include:
    - A feature named "UpdateX" which allows Alert Issuers to modify a wireless alert message target area and/or its expiration time by significantly reducing the number of duplicate alert notifications presented on wireless devices that have already received an active alert.
    - Support the use of the "none" geocode value, an accepted value in the CAP-CP location references, in the WSP's cell broadcast system to distribute a wireless alert to the public.
- Contractual agreements for the communication link between each wireless service provider and the NAAD System are up for renewal in the spring of 2021. No change is expected in the short term in regards to the type of connection used for the WPA service.

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 alpha release is expected to be completed by November 2020. Development work will continue until 2021. The implementation of the new alert interface will not impact LMDs.

Proposal for a National Mobile Application

A proposal to develop a national mobile application was introduced to the NAAD System Governance Council. The Alert Ready mobile application would be free and it would allow Canadians to receive and consult alert information. Next steps include assessing options and cost estimates to build a mobile application. This proposal will be discussed further at an upcoming meeting of the Council.

Update from Public Alerting Partners

- The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) provided an update on the process for activating an AMBER alert in Ontario. A new internal process at the OPP was completed and it allows AMBER alerts to be sent to the NAAD System through a Trusted Feed. The OPP is currently looking at various options, including implementing better templates, in order to get the content of an alert translated to French faster. The ultimate goal is to send a single alert in both English and French.
- The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in New Brunswick now has access to the alert system to issue policing alerts and AMBER alerts. All municipal police services in New Brunswick will work through the RCMP should an emergency alert be required.
- Several jurisdictions across the country are also considering giving some police services access to the alert system.
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) are considering issuing Broadcast Immediate (BI) Severe Thunderstorm alerts next summer. They are also evaluating adding URLs to the content of a BI alert. Finally, ECCC is currently working on updating their Text to Speech lexicon.

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