

Deadline to comment on changes to Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) is February 12, 2016.

The National Weather Service provides weather alert information which is delivered to the public via Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA). There is an opportunity to comment on important changes to WEA which have been proposed by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) in a recent Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM). The deadline to comment is February 12, 2016.

The NWS comments include a recommendation that would support WEA related innovation in the weather enterprise, but the FCC is not likely to take action on it without supporting comments from others. The FCC is taking a second round of comments until February 12 which are intended to allow the public to comment on the comments [made by others](#).



Since the deadline to comment is in just a couple weeks away, here is some information which may help in your review of the document. Pages 44 to 46 (Appendix 1) contain the proposed rule changes:

- Expansion of WEA message length from 90 to 360 characters
- Removal of the prohibition on inclusion of URLs and phone numbers in WEA messages
- Addition of an "Emergency Government Information" category
- Codification of polygon level geographical targeting
- State and local WEA testing
- Performance of additional logging by carriers.



Pages 7 to 41 contain extensive discussion of the proposed rule changes as well as a number of areas where the FCC seeks comment on other possible improvements such as


- Multi-language WEA
- How increased message length might affect accessibility for the disabled and those with limited English proficiency
- How images/maps and multimedia might improve WEA
- Approaches to improve geo-targeting and potential benefits
- Breaking WEA out into additional categories

Comments should be submitted by clicking the "Submit a Filing in 15-91" link at the top left of <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/proceeding/view?name=15-91> as shown below.

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Proceeding 15-91 Details

Bureau Name: [Public Safety and Homeland Security](#)
Subject: Wireless Emergency Alerts
Name of Party: James Wiley
Prepared By: James Wiley
Rule Section: 47 C.F.R.   10
Date Created: 04/14/2015
Status: Open
Total Filings: 59
Filings in last 30 days: 42



For questions about NWS comments to this NPRM, please contact:

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