



# County of Bucks

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

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### *County Commissioners*

ROBERT G. LOUGHERY, *Chairman*  
CHARLES H. MARTIN, *Vice-Chairman*  
DIANE M. ELLIS-MARSEGLIA, *LCSW*

Scott T. Forster  
*Director*

January 15, 2014

Dear Municipal Officials and Chiefs,

On behalf of the County of Bucks and our Board of Commissioners, we wish you a Happy New Year! As we move into 2014, it is time to bring you the latest news on the new 911 Radio Project. Many of you keep up with the monthly updates on the project and intimately understand the complexity of site acquisition and lease negotiations. The County is not immune to those challenges. Lease negotiations are continuing and we also have moved into the zoning and permitting phase at several additional sites, with civil work under way at nine sites.

Although significant progress is being made, we still have some hurdles to overcome in the leasing, zoning and permitting process at a few sites. These hurdles are impacting the anticipated cutover date to the new system. We can no longer state that we will meet the September 2014 cutover.

#### **What this means to our system users:**

What this signals is that we will be delayed in moving to the new system. It is imperative that the entire system is built out before we can migrate over to the new network. Further, we must perform system testing with full foliage to best determine that the vendor can meet their contractual obligation of 95% coverage throughout the county.

#### **Where we are today:**

The County is working to finalize the leases with the six (6) remaining site owners. Eight (8) leases have been approved by the Commissioners, and we are at various stages of the permitting process on 14 sites. Construction teams and electricians are working with our technical team to insure a smooth transition to the new network.

We continue to monitor the project schedule closely for dates that can be brought in, but current indications have moved our system ready date into the second quarter of 2015. As the County continues to work through the various permitting and zoning processes and construction begins on the new sites in the system, we will update all of the municipalities and responders on the progress.

**What's next: Upcoming Benchmarks:**

- Q1 2014 – Cutover Planning: Although the cutover date is being pushed out, the planning process for cutover is extensive and we anticipate scheduling cutover planning sessions with system stakeholders in the very near future.
- 1/31/2014 – 2/2015 – Construction and installation services continue.
- 3/2015 – System expected to be online for field acceptance testing.
- 6/2015 – Anticipated cutover to the new system.
- 9/2015 - System acceptance.

To keep everyone updated, we provide regular status reports on our project website which can be found at [www.buckscounty.org](http://www.buckscounty.org) – scroll to the bottom of the page where the icon with the portable radios is for the latest project news.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott T. Forster". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Scott T. Forster