



## MICRN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Metropolitan Incident Command Radio Network)

August 4, 2014

Dear MICRN Membership:

The MICRN network will be migrating to a digital system over the next 18 months. Our goal is to have all radios on the MICRN changed over to digital by **January 1, 2016**. Once your radio(s) are replaced with digital radio(s), they can still be used on the MICRN until the official switch to digital. Illowa will need to make a minor change at that time.

Reminder of the purpose of MICRN: (Part I Purpose – *first paragraph* – MICRN 28E Agreement)

### Purpose

The Metropolitan Incident Command Radio Network (“MICRN”) utilizes an 800 MHz radio, and was created to enhance immediate communications between agencies and emergency responders in central Iowa in the event of an emergency. Emergencies include hazardous weather and non-weather emergencies including HAZMAT incidents, terrorist attacks, mass casualty events, flooding and any event requiring inter-agency communication. MICRN was established in the spring of 1994 with an initial membership involving about 15 agencies. The original concept was to enhance interagency communications during emergencies. The need was identified after the 1993 floods where interagency communication was a problem. Since 1994, the MICRN has grown to over 40 divisions of public and non-profit private agencies in eight Iowa counties.

As stated in our 28E Agreement, MICRN was created to enhance immediate communications between agencies, etc. In order to communicate effectively, the MICRN uses a private, commercial vendor to easily share information between a multitude of agencies across eight Iowa counties. There, the Executive Committee supports the use of a limited number of radios for mainly command-level communications which is easily achieved using the commercial digital service offered by Illowa Communications.

**Important** – All MICRN members must coordinate with Illowa Communications to purchase and replace existing radios with digital radios by January 1, 2016. It is possible that existing radios may function on digital, or your current radios may be replaced with radios which are compliant. The vendor will be able to help you answer those questions. In any event, everyone must contact the vendor and make arrangement to change over to digital.

We are providing an 18 month window to ease budget planning through this process. The Executive Committee will appreciate your support making the transition to digital.



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John Sample retired from Illowa. For now, our point of contact is Mark Clarke at 515-286-1851 or e-mail [mclark@conectingyou.com](mailto:mclark@conectingyou.com). If the vendor assigns a new person to the MICRN, we will inform the network.

There will also be a small increase in the monthly service fee for each agency which is independent of the move to digital.

We regret any budgetary issues this may cause, but we must make the change to digital to keep the network on a secure footing as we move forward. Eventually, the analog service will be discontinued.

I will be departing the National Weather Service, Des Moines, IA for the National Weather Service office in Topeka, KS in September, 2014. Jeff Zogg, Senior Hydrologist, National Weather Service, Des Moines, IA will assume my duties. Jeff's contact information: [jeff.zogg@noaa.gov](mailto:jeff.zogg@noaa.gov) and 515-270-4501.

Sincerely,

Jeff Johnson

Chair – MICRN Executive Committee

cc: Jeff Zogg