Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

January 17, 2017

Michael Langner
Broadcast Chair, SECC-NM
929 Alameda Road NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114-1901

Re: New Mexico EAS Plan

Dear Mr. Langner:

Thank you for submitting the latest version of the New Mexico Emergency Alert System (EAS) Plan. I am pleased to inform you that the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) has reviewed and approved your Plan.

Please also be aware of two major items that will affect the operations of your State Emergency Communications Committee:

- On January 29, 2016, the Commission released a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that takes steps towards strengthening the EAS by improving alerting organization at the state and local levels, building effective community-based public safety exercises, ensuring that alerting mechanisms are able to leverage technological advancements, and securing the EAS against accidental misuse and malicious intrusion. This item is currently on circulation before the Commission in PS Docket 15-94.

- On July 6, 2016, the Commission released a *Report and Order* that revises the Commission's EAS rules to add three new EAS event codes, covering extreme wind and storm surges, as well as revise the territorial boundaries of the geographic location codes for two offshore marine areas.

PSHSB looks forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that the public receives timely and accurate emergency alerts.

Sincerely,

David G. Simpson
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.)
Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

SECC Plan
FCC Approved New Mexico Version
Revision 1.5 – September 2, 2016

Mike Langner

Sections

1.0 Purpose and Scope of this New Mexico State Emergency Alert System (EAS) Plan

1.1 Plan Purpose This plan serves three basic purposes -

(1) It outlines how the **Chief Executive Officer Of New Mexico, the Governor, the National Weather Service (NWS)** and authorized local/regional government entities can provide emergency messages affecting a large area, multiple areas, or the entire area of the state.

(2) It provides guidance for the broadcast and cable industry in the use of the Emergency Alert System, both voluntarily and in the event of a national alert from the President of the United States. **This EAS plan is an FCC-mandated document**.

(3) It outlines the framework for how emergency warning centers and the broadcast community can work together to assure that residents in the **State Of New Mexico** and adjacent state participants can receive timely information that will better help them take protective actions to save lives and property.

1.2 The Emergency Alert System The EAS is a system that can be used to issue national, state or local emergency warnings to the public issued by authorized warning originators using broadcast, cable and certain satellite program distribution entities as entry points. An EAS

warning may be for a few blocks or widespread - large parts of a city, sections of specified areas (such as a county or parts of adjoining counties) a part or all of a region, several states, or the entire nation.

1.3 EAS and the Public The listening and viewing habits of the public are inherent factors to considerer regarding the role of the EAS to provide protective information to that public when emergencies threaten their lives and property. The instinctive reaction of the average person is to turn on their radio or television set in times of emergencies. However, continuing public education is required to increase public awareness of the EAS as an established medium for the receipt and distribution of time-critical emergency information to the general public at the Local, State and National levels.

1.4 What is a Public Warning? A public warning is information, about a current emergency situation, timely delivered, from authorized authorities to a public at risk so that this public can better take protective actions to help save their lives and preserve their property.

1.5 The Goal of Public Warnings The highest and best goal of public warnings is to communicate accurate and timely actionable information to people who are at risk from imminent life safety and property-threatening emergencies. The advent of the **Common Alerting Protocol** (CAP) means that this goal can now be more closely integrated into and coordinated with the response phase of emergencies. Adding CAP to EAS means that more people at risk will receive better information in a more timely manner, resulting in better outcomes to emergencies that threaten life and property. It is to everyone's advantage to build solid partnerships between the warning origination community and those who carry the responsibility to bring these warnings to the public who come under the Federal Communications Commission's EAS rules.

1.6 EAS Committees and the Emergency Management Community Education and training support from State and Local EAS Committees is needed to enable the emergency management community to take full advantage of this role. Education and training are also critical elements in supporting the public/private partnership that must be in place before emergencies, so that valuable information from those in charge during emergencies can reach those who need it in a timely manner.

1.7 Distribution The EAS provides a means of distributing emergency information quickly to radio stations, television stations, cable entities and certain satellite distribution entities so that it can be relayed to the general public as fast as possible. The EAS is made up of radio, television, cable entities and certain satellite distribution carriers cooperating on a voluntary, organized basis for local and state warnings who are subject to mandatory compliance for Federal warnings per the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) 47 CFR Part 11 Rules.

1.8 Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Authorizations for Public Warnings **The New Mexico Department Of Homeland Security and Emergency Management** will act as the administrator for authorization of local agencies for CAP warning origination. While the **New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management** will stand up a

state CAP server, the **New Mexico Department Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management** will also coordinate authorizations for local agencies to originate CAP-based messages through the FEMA aggregator. Local agencies, after coordinating with state emergency management may stand up a local CAP server in addition to whatever the **New Mexico Department Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management** may be doing for state CAP capabilities

1.9 Purpose of State and Local Plans State and Local EAS plans are guidelines for broadcasters and cable TV operators providing details on mandated and optional monitoring assignments, codes for EAS Header, Required Monthly Test (RMT) schedules and other elements. Such plans are an adjunct to the FCC EAS Rules that are also incorporated herein by reference thereto. Local EAS plans must be posted at EAS operating positions at all EAS entry points subject to the FCC's Part 11.

1.10 Regional Considerations Portions of or all of any Local Area within **New Mexico** that receive better quality EAS signals from an adjoining state (**Texas**, **Arizona**, or **Colorado**) – or ONLY receive EAS signals from adjoining states - may be a part of that State's plan with the approval of the **New Mexico** State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) and applicable EAS committees for said states.

2.0 Changes to the Emergency Alert System

2.1 Effective Date Effective June 30, 2012 all EAS participants subject to FCC 47 CFR Part 11 must monitor the FEMA Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) aggregator. This will initially be accomplished though Internet Protocol (IP) connection of an approved IPAWS OPEN CAP-capable EAS device, and entry into these devices of information that will allow the device to poll the aggregator. This change means that all warning centers authorized by the **New Mexico Department Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management** and FEMA can not only issue warnings that will reach the public through broadcast, cable and certain satellite program content providers, but also through other warning systems such as Reverse 911, sirens, DOT remotely programmable highway signs, and a wide variety of social communications media.

2.2 Attention Signal The EAS Attention Signal must now be exactly 8 seconds.

2.3 Non Participating Stations The Non-Participating (NN) category for EAS has been eliminated. All FCC licensed broadcast stations are now Participating National (PN) stations.

2.4 Audio, video and graphics that may be associated with IPAWS Open Messages The Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) standard has provisions so audio, video, pictures or graphics can be associated with messages to deliver more and better information to the public. The IPAWS OPEN aggregator will not relay actual audio or a computer audio file within messages that CAP-EAS devices receive. When a CAP EAS device polls a CAP message from

IPAWS, that message may include a reference to an audio file on a separate server operated by the **New Mexico Department Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management** or the **New Mexico Department Of Public Safety** which, in New Mexico, is responsible for **AMBER Alerts**. When a CAP EAS unit polls the IPAWS OPEN CAP aggregator, if there is a URL "pointer" in the CAP message, the receiving CAP EAS device will automatically seek the referenced audio file, and compile a complete message from those two elements. The **Text to Speech** (TTS) feature of CAP reception devices will serve as a backup mechanism in case an expected audio file "pointer" cannot be located. TTS audio is derived from the text word description in the CAP message.

2.5 After New Mexico stands up a State CAP server While the actions described above are taking place, CAP EAS units will also poll or have pushed to them the same CAP message from the **New Mexico Department Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management** or **other authorized** CAP source that is being used to forward the local/state CAP message to IPAWS. EAS CAP devices will in this way seek an audio file "pointer", or the audio file can be "pushed" to the CAP device. For **IPAWS OPEN** messages without a URL audio pointer**, New Mexico Department Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management** originators will rely completely on the ability of CAP EAS reception devices to create TTS audio. TTS is a voluntary choice made by EAS participants.

3.0 Types of Warnings

3.1 For New Mexico In New Mexico, the EAS can be used for warnings of an immediate emergency situation, such as severe thunderstorms or tornadoes, forecast or actually occurring, evacuations of areas due to an incident (such as a hazardous spill), or instructions to shelter in place, or other events requiring the public to take immediate protective actions. Watches and statements of the **National Weather Service** (NWS) do not require this type of immediate action, but may be carried by the system at the discretion of the **New Mexico Department Of Homeland Security and Emergency Management** and by broadcast stations.

3.2 National Weather Service The NWS may use its Weather Radio Specific Message Encoder (SAME) and Common Alerting Protocol capabilities for alerts for NWS watches, warnings, and statements on the 162 MHz National Weather Radio (NWR) channels. In that way the public can receive them on radio monitoring equipment even though they are not on the EAS system. For weather radio units consult local commercial establishments.

4.0 Local Area EAS Plans

4.1 Mandate A Local Area Plan is a FCC-mandated document for organization and implementation of the Emergency Alert System for areas into which a state is divided for the EAS. In New Mexico the divisions are called Operational Areas and generally conform to county jurisdictions or groups-of-counties jurisdictions. Operational Areas can be combined for EAS Committee purposes due to geographic or other reasons that can affect radio and/or television coverage. Areas from adjacent states can be part of a **New Mexico** EAS Committee area and, conversely, portions of New Mexico can be a part of an EAS Committee area of those adjacent states. Once adopted and signed by the **New Mexico** SECC, a Local Area EAS plan

becomes a part of the State Plan.

4.2 Responsibility Responsibility for writing, administering and maintaining a Local Area Plan rests with the members of the Local Emergency Communications Committee (LECC). The State Emergency Communications Committee Chair (SECC) appoints the LECC Chair and Vice Chair. The SECC Chair in New Mexico is selected and appointed by a consensus of the members of the SECC.

4.3 Approval Procedures Local Area Plans require the signature of the LECC Chair and Vice Chair, along with a representative of the National Weather Service and the SECC Chair. Local Plans are then reviewed and submitted by the State SECC Chair for **New Mexico**. When approved by the SECC Chair for New Mexico it is then distributed to the appropriate stations and officials in the respective Local Area. State Plans must be submitted to the FCC for final approval.

4.4 Posting of Plans Local plans must be posted at EAS control points for all entities in accordance with 47 CFR Part 11.

5.0 The Authority, Structure and Authorizations for the New Mexico EAS Plan

5.1 Authority The **New Mexico State EAS Plan** is the official document for statewide implementation and organization of the EAS system based on monitoring assignments and other provisions in local EAS Plans. Of necessity it includes all Local Area Plans that are incorporated herein by reference thereto and inclusion in the MAPBOOK section of the State Plan.

5.2 Gubernatorial Activation The Governor - as the Chief Emergency Action Officer of **New Mexico** - may activate the EAS through the **New Mexico Department Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management** or any other authorized activation point at any time there is an imminent serious threat to life and /or property over such an extended area that centralized activation and coordination of emergency measures and resources is needed. This is anticipated to be, but is not limited to, an activation of all authorized FCC EAS event codes designed for use by Local Governments. **The New Mexico Department Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management** shall have the capability to activate EAS, regionally, or locally at the request of Local Government per each LECC. **The New Mexico Department Of Public Safety** is the lead agency for New Mexico **Amber Alerts**. The **National Weather Service, as** a full partner in the EAS, can act as an originator for local or State EAS events per provisions in local EAS Plans.

5.3 Responsibility for Administration and Updates The responsibility for administering and updating the EAS Plan for New Mexico rests with the SECC. The SECC Executive Staff is comprised of the SECC Chair and Vice-Chair(s). SECC general members include the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the LECC's and other voluntary members appointed by the SECC Chair, and such other EAS stakeholders as the SECC deems necessary for effective representation at all

levels involved in the warning process. The **New Mexico Department Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management Program Coordinator** is the Executive Secretary of the SECC, keeping the State and all Local Plans up to date and on file.

5.4 SECC Structure The SECC is comprised of Executive and General Members. The SECC Executive is comprised of the SECC Chair, Vice-Chair and Industry, State Emergency Management, Public Safety and Weather Service and other Delegates. These delegates are selected to represent the EAS Stakeholder warning distribution community by the Chair in concert with the **New Mexico Department Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management**.

5.5 Election of Chair and Vice Chair The Chair and Vice Chair will be elected annually by the SECC Delegates in conjunction with the New Mexico Broadcasters Association's Annual Convention each year and confirmed by the **New Mexico Department Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management.**

5.6 General Members SECC general members include the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the state's Local Area Emergency Communications Committees (LECC's) and other voluntary members, and such other EAS stakeholders as the SECC deems necessary for effective representation at all levels involved in the warning process as may from time to time be appointed by the SECC Chair.

5.7 Program Coordinator The New Mexico Department Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management EAS Program Coordinator is the Executive Secretary of the SECC, keeping the State and all Local Plans up to date and on file. The SECC Executive Membership positions for New Mexico will be comprised of the positions in 5.8 below.

5.8 SECC Positions The current SECC Executive Membership positions for New Mexico are:

Chair: (Elected from Delegates listed below by the other Delegates)
Vice Chair: (Elected from Delegates listed below by the other Delegates)
Industry Delegate: Cable
Industry Delegate: Radio
Industry Delegate: Television
Industry Delegate: DBS/Satellite/Other
State Broadcaster Assn. Delegate: New Mexico Broadcasters Association
AMBER Delegate: New Mexico Department of Public Safety
State EM Delegate: New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management(Executive Secretary)
National Weather Service Delegate: National Weather Service
Media Delegate: Other warning systems (electronic signs & billboards, social media)

6.0 Participation and Priorities

The priorities listed in 11.44 of the original FCC EAS Rules have been dropped.

6.1 Program Control Acceptance of/or participation in this Plan is not a relinquishment of program control, and shall not prohibit a broadcast licensee from exercising independent discretion and responsibility in any given situation. Broadcast stations and cable systems originating EAS emergency communications are deemed to confer rebroadcast authority. The concept of management of each broadcast station and cable system to exercise discretion regarding the broadcast of emergency information and instructions to the general public is provided by the FCC Rules and Regulations.

7.0 National EAS Participation

7.1 National Participation All broadcasters, cable operators, and certain satellite content providers are required to participate in the National-level EAS. All entities subject to 47 CFR Part 11, as well as all cable operators, are considered to be "PN" (Participating National) stations and must carry Presidential EAS messages. In addition, all broadcasters, cable operators and certain satellite content providers must transmit a Required Weekly Test (RWT), and once a month, must re-transmit the Required Monthly Test (RMT) within 60 minutes of receiving it on their EAS Decoder.

8.0 State and Local EAS Participation

8.1 Local Participation Participation in State and/or Local Area EAS is voluntary for all broadcasters and cable operators. However, EAS entities generally choose to participate because of their long-standing commitment to public service. The stations, cable operators and satellite service providers who elect to participate in the State and/or Local Area EAS must follow the procedures found in this and their Local Area Plan. Participation of LP stations involves a more formal local agreement to relay EAS events specified in local plans. This state plan encourages all EAS entities to match the commitment of LP stations, agreeing to relay EAS events as specified in local plans.

9.0 Code references and Authority

9.1 47 CFR Part 11 EAS Rules, 47
9.2 CFR Part 73 Broadcast Service Rules
9.3 47 CFR Part 76 Cable Television Service Rules.
9.4 U.S. government continuity policy: www.fema.gov/about/org/ncp/index.shtm
9.5 FEMA IPAWS: http://www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/about.shtm
9.6 Authority to activate EAS in **New Mexico** rests with the **New Mexico Department Of Homeland Security**, the **National Weather Service**, and authorized Command Level personnel of Local government in accordance with their respective Local Area EAS plans.

10.0 Area Threats The geographical area covered by this plan is the **State of New Mexico**.

The decision to use the EAS is the responsibility of the local government in situations that are essentially local in nature, as contrasted to those that are state, regional (several states) or national in scope. Situations that could cause use of the EAS include the following:

- Severe storms, tornadoes, hurricanes, flash floods and landslides can lead to devastating floods. Icing and snows are a hazard under certain conditions in some areas of the State.

- Chemical and hazardous material spills and chemical releases that can create both immediate and long-term health hazards.

- Dam failure, whether by natural or manmade causes, whether by natural or manmade causes, can result in extensive damage and potential loss of life in areas that would be affected by the sudden surges of water and debris.

- Large scale transportation accidents that have occurred from a variety of causes, such as dust storms, dense fog, heavy rain or volcanic ash.

- While earthquakes are natural hazards due to the proximity of geologic faults to population centers, no effective and dependable warning system yet exists for earthquakes.

- Fires that can threaten wooded areas and adjacent communities. Hot dry winds and low humidity conditions can push wildland blazes into urban areas.

- Volcanic eruptions can present a disaster of epic proportions, depending on location, timing and magnitude.

- Nuclear accidents or incidents that occur, in or out of the state, from fixed nuclear power plant sites, military installations, transportation systems, military aircraft crashes, or terrorist activity.

- Unusual incidents that arise out of terrorism, urban unrest or other mass actions.

- Nuclear or conventional war, and armed aggression are potential threats. Military bases and national laboratories and industrial centers in **New Mexico** could be targets for attack.

- Child Abduction notifications are added as part of **New Mexico's AMBER Alert** Program. **Silver Alerts**, notifications of lost or wandering adults, generally senior citizens with dementia, may be added to the list of carried notifications at the discretion of the SECC.

11.0 History

The EAS program is an outgrowth of the Emergency Broadcast Program, which had its roots in the Civ-Alert system in the State of Hawaii. The Civ-Alert system was begun in Hawaii in l960 following a disastrous tsunami in which there was considerable loss of life. In l963 the

FCC investigated the Civ- Alert system, liked it and scraped the then-in-use CONELRAD system. The replacement was the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS), crafted after Hawaii's Civ-Alert System.

The Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) was decommissioned in 1997 as it was deemed inadequate and obsolete. It was replaced by the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

The EAS system has national purpose, as well as a state and local purpose. A national alert flows from the Primary Entry Points to the National Primary Stations, thence to the LP1 stations by the manner in which the LP1's monitor their information sources. Similarly, the monitoring process of the LP1 stations - that typically includes the State Radio Network - provides the distribution of the state and local warnings in accord with the Local Area and State EAS plans. When a local government needs to warn its citizens, it is the local EAS system that provides that capability.

12. Revisions Minor changes to Local EAS plans need LECC action with informational copies to all stations, cable entities and governments including the **New Mexico Department Of Homeland Security and Emergency Management**. Major changes follow the same process but require FCC and SECC approval coordinated with the **State Of New Mexico**.

13, EAS Header Codes

From FCC Rules and Regulations 11.31

The only originator codes are:

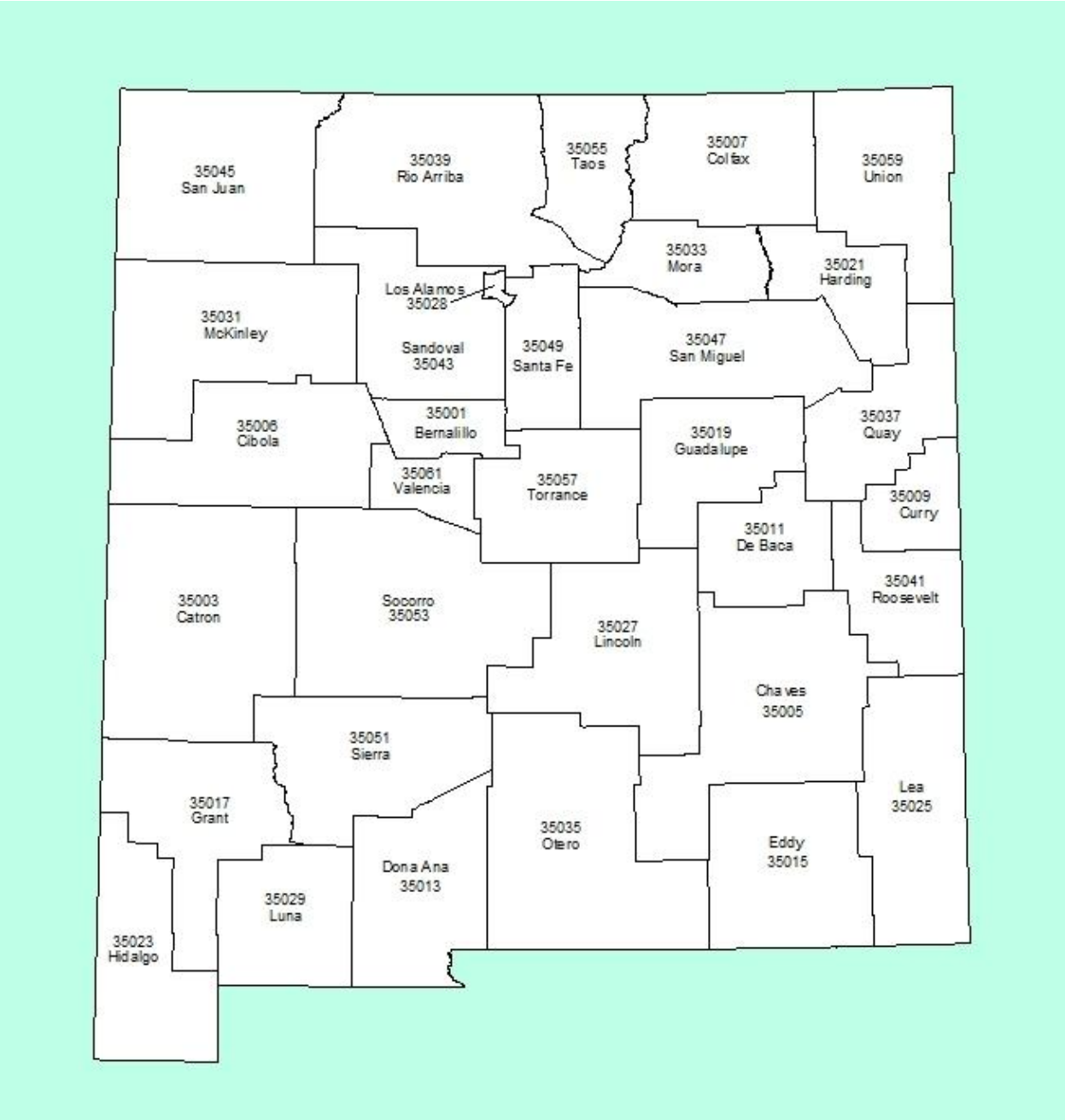
Originator	ORG code
EAS Participant	EAS
Civil authorities	CIV
National Weather Service	WXR
Primary Entry Point System	PEP

The following Event (EEE) codes are presently authorized:

Nature of activation	Event codes
National Codes (Required):	
Emergency Action Notification (National only)	EAN
National Information Center	NIC
National Periodic Test	NPT
Required Monthly Test	RMT
Required Weekly Test	RWT
State and Local Codes	
Administrative Message	ADR
Avalanche Warning	AVW
Avalanche Watch	AVA

Blizzard Warning	BZW
Child Abduction Emergency	CAE
Civil Danger Warning	CDW
Civil Emergency Message	CEM
Coastal Flood Warning	CFW
Coastal Flood Watch	CFA
Dust Storm Warning	DSW
Earthquake Warning	EQW
Evacuation Immediate	EVI
Fire Warning	FRW
Flash Flood Warning	FFW
Flash Flood Watch	FFA
Flash Flood Statement	FFS
Flood Warning	FLW
Flood Watch	FLA
Flood Statement	FLS
Hazardous Materials Warning	HMW
High Wind Warning	HWW
High Wind Watch	HWA
Hurricane Warning	HUW
Hurricane Watch	HUA
Hurricane Statement	HLS
Law Enforcement Warning	LEW
Local Area Emergency	LAE
Network Message Notification	NMN
911 Telephone Outage Emergency	TOE
Nuclear Power Plant Warning	NUW
Practice/Demo Warning	DMO
Radiological Hazard Warning	RHW
Severe Thunderstorm Warning	SVR
Severe Thunderstorm Watch	SVA
Severe Weather Statement	SVS
Shelter in Place Warning	SPW
Special Marine Warning	SMW
Special Weather Statement	SPS
Tornado Warning	TOR
Tornado Watch	TOA
Tropical Storm Warning	TRW
Tropical Storm Watch	TRA
Tsunami Warning	TSW
Tsunami Watch	TSA
Volcano Warning	VOW
Winter Storm Warning	WSW
Winter Storm Watch	WSA

15. New Mexico County FIPS Codes



New Mexico FIPS Codes And Operational Areas/Geographic Zones

County	FIPS Code
State of New Mexico	35000
BERNALILLO	35001 Central
CATRON	35003 West Central
CHAVES	35005 Southeast
CIBOLA	35006 West Central
COLFAX	35007 Northwest
CURRY	35009 East Central
DEBACA	35011 East Central
DONA ANA	35013 South Central
EDDY	35015 Southeast
GRANT	35017 Southwest
GUADALUPE	35019 East Central
HARDING	35021 Northeast
HIDALGO	35023 Southwest
LEA	35025 Southeast
LINCOLN	35027 South Central
LOS ALAMOS	35028 North Central
LUNA	35029 Southwest
MCKINLEY	35031 West Central
MORA	35033 Northeast
OTERO	35035 South Central
QUAY	35037 East Central
RIO ARRIBA	35039 North Central
ROOSEVELT	35041 East Central
SANDOVAL	35043 North Central
SAN JUAN	35045 Northwest

SAN MIGUEL	35047 Northeast
SANTA FE	35049 North Central
SIERRA	35051 Southwest
SOCORRO	35053 Central
TAOS	35055 North Central
TORRANCE	35057 Central
UNION	35059 Northeast
VALENCIA	35061 Central

16. EAS Monitoring Assignments

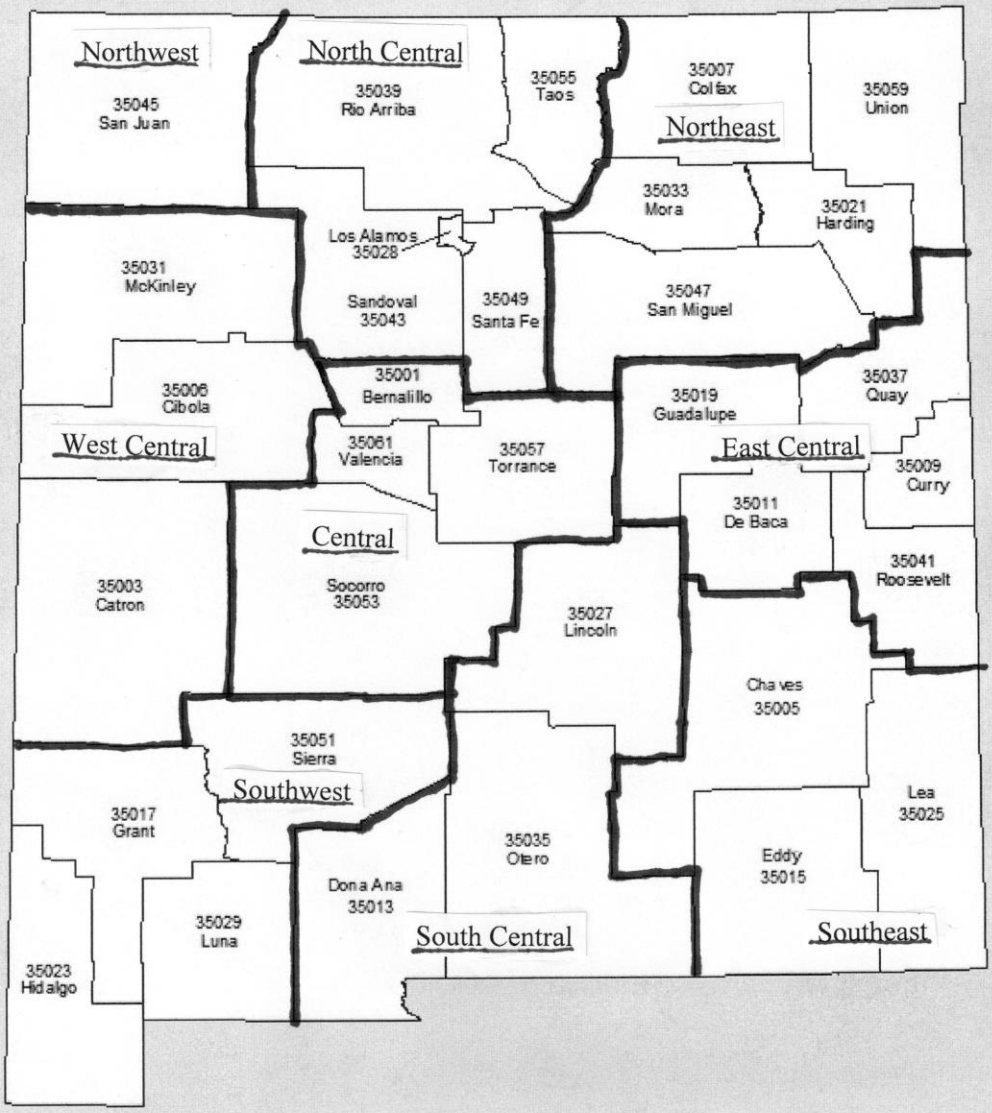
Stations are required by the FCC to monitor two sources assigned by the SECC. In general these will be radio or TV or cable stations that are "upstream" from the monitoring station, that is, are closer in the monitoring fan-out to the source of emergency alerts and tests. Stations are encouraged to monitor additional sources which may provide warning information to the public, in particular, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's weather radio.

In addition, stations are required under the **IPAWS/CAP** rules to monitor the appropriate **IPAWS/CAP** server(s). See **apps.fema.gov**.

A copy of the latest EAS monitoring assignments is attached to this plan.

17. FCC Mapbook

New Mexico is divided into nine Operational Areas/Geographic Zones as shown on the map below.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North Central
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Rio Arriba
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Union
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Mora
35021
Harding
Los Alamos
35028
35031
McKinley
Sandoval
35043
35049
Santa Fe
35047
San Miguel
35001
Bernalillo
35037
Quay
35006
Cibola
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Guadalupe
West Central
35061
Valencia
35057
Torrance
East Central
35009
Curry
35011
De Baca
Central
35003
Catron
Socorro
35053
35041
Roosevelt
35027
Lincoln
Chaves
35005
35051
Sierra
Southwest
Lea
35025
35017
Grant
35035
Otero
Eddy
35015
Dona Ana
35013
35029
Luna
South Central
Southeast
35023
Hidalgo