



July 5, 2022

Scott Johnson
Deputy County Attorney
Office of the Pinal County Attorney,
Mr. Kent Volkmer
Civil Division
P.O. Box 887
Florence, Arizona 85132

Via email: Scott.M.Johnson@pinal.gov

RE: NEW FIRSTNET/AT&T CELL SITE, VICINITY OF THE HEAD OF THE
MAGMA MINE IN PINAL COUNTY, AZ.

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Under the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, Congress established the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) and directed it to ensure the building, deployment, and ongoing operation of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network ("FirstNet"), the first nationwide high-speed broadband network dedicated to public safety.¹ The FirstNet Authority's mission is to provide and maintain a single, interoperable platform that consistently satisfies the demanding communications needs of the public safety community in Arizona and across the country. New radio access network ("RAN") sites are essential to the success of the program and delivering the mission critical coverage public safety needs to communicate and save lives.

This network has been a top priority for first responders and public safety agencies in Arizona and throughout the country, and has been designed based on their specific, expressed needs, with coverage and capacity being paramount. Simply put, coverage enables a first responder to send and receive data, and capacity ensures speed and quality of those communications. New RAN infrastructure connected to FirstNet will improve communication for first responders where that infrastructure has been currently lacking. The FirstNet Authority and our private-sector partner, AT&T, have worked with the Arizona public safety community to identify coverage needs throughout the state to improve emergency communications in everyday use as well as for large-scale emergencies.

¹ See Title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-96), <https://www.congress.gov/112/bills/hr3630/BILLS-112hr3630enr.pdf>

In 2017, the Governor opted into the FirstNet Authority plan for RAN deployment in Arizona and thus authorizing construction of the FirstNet network in areas of the state where public safety needs coverage and capacity. By opting-in, the Governor enabled public safety to rapidly access broadband services in Arizona, while also allowing the prompt buildout and deployment of the network which began in March of 2018. The opt-in decision also directed the FirstNet Authority to take on all the risks, costs, and responsibilities associated with deploying the network in Arizona for 25 years and take immediate steps to make prioritized services and features available to public safety in the state.

This network not only needs to serve your local community but will also serve the thousands of first responders that have already adopted FirstNet in Arizona that may respond to your next major emergency. The FirstNet Authority requests your support of our efforts to build new sites to achieve required coverage and capacity for our vital mission in service of public safety.

I am available to assist you at any time. I may be reached at david.faulkner@firstnet.gov. For your reference, attached is additional information about the FirstNet Authority and the network we were entrusted by Congress to establish.

Sincerely,

David Faulkner

David Faulkner, Senior Public Safety Advisor
First Responder Network Authority

Attachments:

1. Primer on the FirstNet Authority's Congressional Mandate to Deploy a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network.
2. FirstNet Contractor Officer Letter.