

April 30, 2022

To All Alberta Emergency Alert Broadcast Partners

Dear Broadcaster:

Subject: Alberta Emergency Alert Transition to National System

In 2014, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) announced that participation in the National Public Alerting System (NPAS) would be “mandatory for broadcasting distribution undertakings, radio broadcasters and over-the-air television broadcasters.” At this time, Alberta sought an exemption from the CRTC to allow Alberta to continue using the provincial Alberta Emergency Alert (AEA) system.

Effective March 2023, Alberta will cancel the CRTC exemption; decommission the AEA and transition to the national system. This means, that all Alberta Broadcasters will need to transition their Government of Alberta (GoA) provided ENDECs from the AEA Feed to the National Alert Aggregation and Dissemination System (NAADS) feed.

Although the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) has transferred all ownership and technical responsibility to broadcasters, and no longer provides technical support and maintenance to the ENDECs provided earlier by the GoA at no cost, AEMA will provide some financial support to assist in the transition of the ENDECs from the AEA feed to the National Feed.

AEMA has arranged an agreement with Trispec, who is the only provider with technicians authorized to work on Sage ENDECs, to complete all ENDEC reprogramming required on behalf of broadcasters. All work completed by Trispec will be paid for by the GoA to ensure there is no financial burden due to this transition, until January 31, 2023.

Attached, you will find instructions and next steps for scheduling your ENDEC transition and instructions for shipping to Trispec. Broadcasters will be required to have their ENDEC reprogramming completed no later than January 31, 2023. After this date, funding will no longer be provided by the GoA to broadcasters to support the required reprogramming of the ENDECs.

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Important dates:

September 30, 2022 – All broadcasters must have scheduled their ENDEC reprogramming with Trispec.

September 2022 – January 2023 – ENDECs reprogrammed by Trispec per the schedule.

January 31, 2023 – Last day for Trispec to reprogram ENDECs with AEMA funding.

March 1, 2023 – Alberta officially begins using the NPAS system province-wide.

March 31, 2023 – AEA decommissioned.

Spring 2023 – CRTC exemption for the AEA feed will be cancelled.

It will be important to have your broadcaster technicians engaged in this process to assist with any required network changes and silent testing of ENDECs once they are returned by Trispec and are reinstalled in stations.

If you have questions, please contact Meghan Thomas, AEA Team Lead. Meghan can be reached by phone at: 780-996-2062 or by email at: Meghan.thomas@gov.ab.ca. All documents and resources for this transition can be found at www.xnet.gov.ab.ca/aea.

Thank you once again for your support and commitment to public safety in Alberta.

Sincerely,

Stephen.Lacroix Digitally signed by Stephen.Lacroix
Date: 2022.04.29 07:46:01 -06'00'

Stephen Lacroix
Managing Director

Attachment - Instructions for Broadcasters 2022