



Secure Commonwealth Panel

May 6, 2013 - Richmond

Attendees: Terrie Suit (Chair), Joseph Bouchard, Paul Conway, Jim Horton, Edward Macon, Dario Marquez, Jeff McWaters, John O'Bannon, Jim Redick, Ren Royston, Cynthia Romero, Margaret Vanderhye, John Watkins, Charles Werner, David Wright.

Welcoming Remarks

Terrie Suit, Chair, opened the meeting and thanked all for their attendance.

Introductions were made by the panel and audience.

E9-1-1 Sub Panel Report Presentation

Dario Marquez, Sub Panel Chair, presented the final report of the E9-1-1 Sub Panel titled "The State of E9-1-1 in Virginia". The report was conducted in response to the E9-1-1 failures as a result of the June 29, 2012 Derecho Storm.

Please see the corresponding Sub Panel Report.

Panel Member Paul Conway asked Mr. Marquez what his level of confidence was that the items outlined in the report would be addressed. Mr. Marquez stated that, in his personal opinion, the Commonwealth has responsibility to ensure the resiliency and redundancy. Even though the future is wireless communications, while the Commonwealth continues to house a legacy system, it is our responsibility to ensure its viability.

Panel Member Joseph Bouchard commented that, as a member of the industry he felt the Sub Panel did a good job on the report. Speaking to the issue concerning tariffs, Mr. Bouchard stated that it is considered unrelated because of intense competition. There is a lot of crossover within the industry, and even though the issue was with Verizon's generators, the problem must be addressed by the industry because of its highly interconnected networks.

Panel Member Charles Werner stated that the system is only as strong as its weakest link, and it is necessary to identify the weakest link and address it.

William Irby with the State Corporation Commission (SCC) addressed the Panel to speak on the contents of a letter written and disseminated to the Panel for the meeting.

Please see the corresponding State Corporation Commission Letter.

Panel Chair Terrie Suit asked Mr. Irby what “de-tariffing” would mean in practical terms. Mr. Irby responded that it could result in contract negotiation being handled individually, rather than collectively, depending on how it would be implemented.

Panel Member John O’Bannon asked Mr. Irby what would be lost if “de-tariffing” were to be implemented. Mr. Irby replied that the SCC would not have rates on file to verify customer complaints, requiring the SCC to verify the rates each time a customer complaint was filed. Additionally, the SCC could still enforce regulation if unfair charging occurred, and there would be more liability exposure to communication companies.

David Ogburn, Director of Public Policy for Verizon, addressed the Panel. Mr. Ogburn stated that it was important to understand the difference between tariff and regulation in that a tariff is a contract between the provider and the customer. Additionally, Mr. Ogburn wanted to make clear that the SCC has stated things that Verizon both “should” do and “shall” do, and that Verizon is doing everything in the SCC report identified as “should” in addition to those items identified as “shall”.

Recurrent Coastal Flooding Presentation

Jim Redick, Panel Member, gave a presentation on the impact on Virginia from recurrent coastal flooding.

Please see the corresponding PowerPoint.

Mr. Redick requested that the Panel approve the formation of a Sub Panel to further investigate this issue and provide possible recommendations on ways in which it might be addressed.

Panel Member John Watkins identified two major issues regarding the recurrent coastal flooding issue; first, how planning is affected. Second, if authority within the Code of Virginia currently enables localities to plan, implement, and enforce such plans. Senator Watkins also identified that in order to ensure such authority, a resolution amending the Virginia Constitution could be required, making the issue even more difficult to address.

Panel Member Joseph Bouchard stated that the College of William & Mary has a legal program discussing this issue and recommended participation from them. Furthermore, Mr. Bouchard felt that this is a national security issue and, therefore, the Department of Defense likely has a keen interest in the subject as the military relies upon the critical infrastructure and key resources in the surrounding localities.

Panel Member John O’Bannon agreed that this issue is not just a prerogative of Virginia, and that federal resources have a part.

Panel Member John Watkins recommended that the Army Corps of Engineers be involved as well, and that the Corps of Engineers has already been conducting studies in Hampton Roads.

Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security Mike McAllister stated that the Department of Homeland Security has interest in this issue and a role to play as well.

Panel Chair Terrie Suit agreed to the establishment of a Sub Panel to be chaired by Jim Redick without objection from members of the Panel. Secretary Suit recommended that the Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources' office be involved, and also stated that the Panel is looking to Mr. Redick for recommendation for non-Panel member participation. Panel members interested in participating should email Secretary Suit's staff member, Mike Landefeld.

Crisis and Situational Awareness Working Group (CASAWG)

Bob Mauskopf, Virginia Department of Health, provided information on the CASAWG and the Virginia Interoperable Information Sharing Environment.

Please see the corresponding PowerPoint.

Closing Remarks

Secretary Suit adjourned the meeting.

Draft Minutes Prepared By:

J. Michael Landefeld

CIP Coordinator

Office of Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security