

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

National Emergency  
Number Association



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## **9-1-1 Association Responds to FCC Wireless Waivers**

*NENA disappointed about further delays, pleased with FCC's other steps to move forward*

COLUMBUS, Ohio (October 8, 2001)—The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) announced today that it is disappointed the FCC found it necessary to grant waivers to the Commission's wireless 9-1-1 rules, but encourages the FCC and the wireless industry to move on with enhanced wireless 9-1-1.

The FCC announced Friday, October 6 that it has conditionally approved the plans of Nextel, Sprint, Verizon and the GSM portions of the AT&T and Cingular networks. These plans deviate from the Commission's rules regarding the timely deployment of wireless enhanced 9-1-1 service.

"This decision by the FCC follows a long struggle by NENA, 9-1-1 and other public safety associations to ensure the timely implementation of wireless 9-1-1," said Sharon Counterman, NENA President. "Every day of delay is a day citizens of this country do not enjoy the full benefits of enhanced wireless 9-1-1 service. While NENA is disappointed with the conditional approval of these carriers' implementation plans, the FCC is attempting to take positive steps to move wireless 9-1-1 forward. Clearly, our public safety efforts mandate that this technology is implemented soon rather than later."

The FCC appears to have responded to some of public safety's concerns, such as the need for quarterly progress reporting by wireless carriers. Enforcement action regarding AT&T and Cingular is also appropriate, and NENA urges the Commission to proceed with consent decrees that reflect AT&T's and Cingular's more recent proactive TDMA proposals, which come much closer to meeting the goals of Phase II. Finally, NENA is pleased to note that the FCC will conduct an ongoing inquiry on technical and third party issues that have been cited as reasons for delay—inquiries that the public safety community has consistently encouraged the Commission to undertake.

"We expect NENA will have further comments once we have had the opportunity to thoroughly review the details of the FCC's decision," said Jim Goerke, NENA Wireless Implementation Director.

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### **About NENA**

A not-for-profit corporation, the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) is the only educational organization dedicated solely to the study, advancement and implementation of 9-1-1 as America's universal emergency number. With the participation of a wide variety of stakeholders and public safety entities, NENA has an individual membership of more than 7,500 public safety executives, and is organized into 48 chapters. The organization strives to provide an effective and accessible 9-1-1 service for North America, measuring its success in the lives saved by 9-1-1 each day. NENA also develops recommended operating standards and protocol for 9-1-1 services from its headquarters in Columbus, Ohio. Learn more at [www.nena.org](http://www.nena.org).