

Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) Standards, Protocols, Procedures

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Standard Title	Regional Development and Responsible Entity	
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1. Purpose or Objective

The purpose of this Standard is to identify entities the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) should contract with in each region of development of the ARMER system. In accordance with Minn. Stat. Section 403.36, subd. 1e, the Commissioner of Transportation shall own, operate, and maintain the ARMER system backbone.

Although Minn. Stat. Section 403.39 provides that the Statewide Emergency Communications Board (SECB) shall facilitate the formation of Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) in each region and shall act cooperatively with Regional Advisory Committees, Regional Emergency Communications Boards (ECBs), Regional Emergency Services Boards (ESBs) to complete the implementation of the backbone and regional infrastructure.

This Standard will identify a structural hierarchy for relationships between MnDOT and potential users of the ARMER system during the formation and evolution of local radio boards within each region. Additionally, Minn. Stat. Section 403.39, subd. 3, specifies that once an ECB or ESB has been formed, local users must coordinate their integration to the ARMER system through one of the members of their ECB/ESB.

2. Technical Background

The initial implementation of the regional, trunked radio system was accomplished through the Metropolitan Emergency Services Board (MESB). With the subsequent implementation of a statewide system and the creation of the SECB to coordinate that implementation, the model for local and regional autonomy was maintained within the statute. The MESB became a Regional Emergency Services Board, and Minn. Stat. Section 403.39 provides specific authority for the development of regional planning committees and ECBs/ESBs in various portions of the state.

Minn. Stat. Section 403.39 provides for the creation of ECBs/ESBs by joint powers agreement (JPA). This process requires a voluntary association of members for that purpose. Although

Minn. Stat. Section 403.37, subd. 3, provides that the SECB may define the timing and regions of backbone development, the specific timing, structure, and geographical coverage of ECBs/ESBs of these voluntary association of local governments remains undefined.

3. Operational Context

State Standard 1.10.0, Requesting and Configuring Participation, is applicable to this process.

Each participant shall contract with an appropriate local or regional radio authority for participation in the ARMER system. The appropriate local or regional radio authority shall be determined in accordance with this standard. Where no appropriate local or regional radio authority can be identified, the participant shall contract directly with MnDOT for participation. All participants must be covered by a contractual agreement that provides direct or indirect (through state, regional, local) accountability for all technical and operational standards to MnDOT and to the SECB.

The general rule of participation is that a local participant should contract for participation with the level of government closest to them and that county plans and regional plans should provide for the integration of participations subordinate to them.

The diagram on page 3 is used to determine the contracting entity to be used by a local participant. Situations not illustrated in the diagram will be referred to the SECB for resolution.

4. Recommended Protocol/Standard

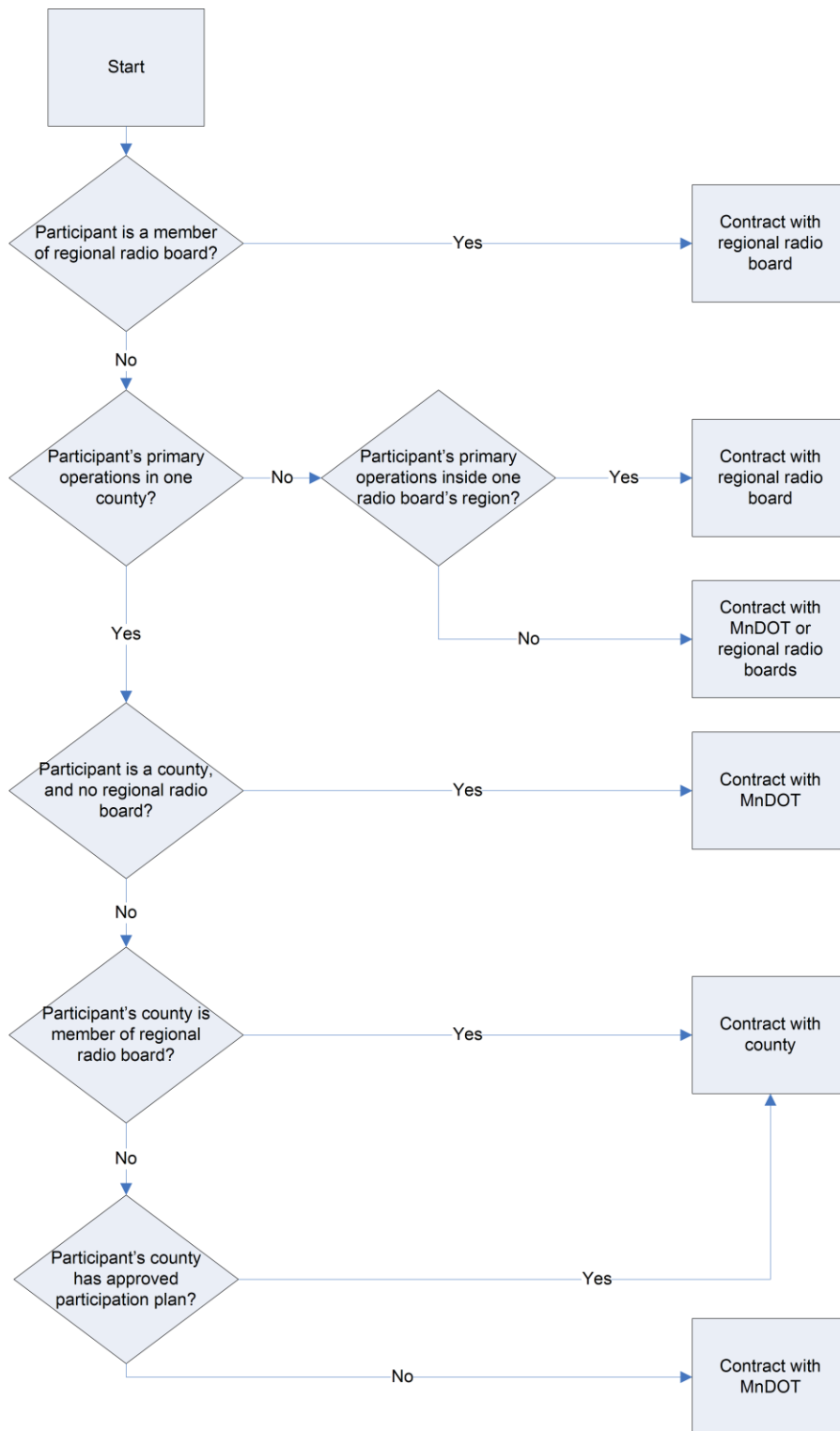
N/A

5. Recommended Procedure

N/A

6. Management

N/A



ARMER 1.9 Contracting Entity
9/12/2007