

# Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

## Description of the Project Area

The FirstNet Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement project area would cover the geography of 50 states, 5 territories, the District of Columbia, and 566 tribal nations. Over the past 30 years, wireless operators have invested tens of billions of dollars in terrestrial networks covering over 60% of the U.S. land mass. The Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) is intended to provide nationwide service, including substantial rural milestones as part of each phase of the construction and deployment of the network.

FirstNet has determined that the design, construction, and operation of the NPSBN is a broad action with nationwide implications. This approach provides for the broadest and most extensive analysis in order to support the balancing of different considerations, including social, economic, and environmental issues. The programmatic approach creates a comprehensive analytical framework that assesses impacts expected from the NPSBN as a whole. It also supports any subsequent site-specific environmental analyses that may be required for individual actions at specific locations, once they are identified.

The programmatic approach allows FirstNet to identify and define three categories of actions: those types of actions that would not have a significant impact on the environment; those actions that would not have a significant impact if certain mitigation measures or best management practices are implemented; and those actions that will require site-specific analysis to determine the nature and extent of impacts.

The project area is divided into five regions:

- East** – comprised of FEMA regions 1, 2, and 3 (with the exception of PR and USVI)
- Central** – comprised of FEMA regions 5, 7, and 8
- South** – comprised of FEMA regions 4 and 6
- West** – comprised of FEMA regions 9 and 10 (except for AK and the Pacific Islands)
- Non-Contiguous** – comprised of AK, HI, PR, USVI, CNMI, AS, and Guam

