

# *The VIPER Newsletter 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2014*

As part of our communications effort to keep everyone informed of our progress, we will be distributing a quarterly newsletter via email and posting a copy of it on the VIPER website at [www.ncdps.gov/VIPER](http://www.ncdps.gov/VIPER). If you would like to contact us, you can email us at [VIPER@NCSHP.ORG](mailto:VIPER@NCSHP.ORG) or call 1-888-92-VIPER.

## **Quick Facts**

- 241 total sites planned for statewide coverage
  1. 208 sites constructed and on-the-air
  2. 3 sites are fully funded and under construction
  3. Funding for remaining site construction has commenced starting this fiscal year
- VIPER estimated to cost \$189.1M to complete
  1. \$172.1M funded to date (includes \$7M R for tower construction in FY14-15)
  2. Pending: Additional \$17M left to be funded for site construction
- VIPER maintenance and support costs
  1. \$7.5M once completed
  2. Current funding = \$5.3M recurring (includes \$2.8M Recurring starting FY13-14)
  3. Pending: Additional \$2.2M recurring to effectively provide maintenance and support once build-out is complete
- Challenges
  1. Construction of the replacement tower for Whiteville has begun. We anticipate that the new tower will be operational by Q1 2015.
  2. VIPER has been notified by the town of Mint Hill that the Mint Hill site will also be decommissioned. VIPER is in the process of identifying an alternative site.

## **Legislative funding for site construction**

- Through Senate Bill 402, VIPER has been provided site construction funding in Fiscal Year 2014-2015
  1. \$7M (Recurring) funds for VIPER Tower Construction

## **Tower Construction Update**

- New towers in Gaston, Rowan and Greene were brought online. We are currently working to activate other sites in Haywood, Swain and Wilkes County by the end of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2015.

## **Radio reprogramming (Rebanding/P25)**

- This second touch has been negotiated with Motorola, EFJ and Sprint Nextel to provide a very specific set of tasks.
- Reconfiguration dollars are only available to program end user radios that are primary users of the VIPER system. The funds will not cover the reconfiguration of radios covered by another licensee's frequency reconfiguration agreement (FRA).
- Each VIPER POC should have received a document specifically outlining what items are covered in the Second Touch programming agreement.

## **VIPER ID status**

- We have already seen an additional 10,000+ user ID's added to the system since the completion of P25 resulting in the total number of VIPER users approximately 72,000.
- VIPER provided each county point of contact (POC) or state/federal agency POC with a block of assigned VIPER ID's.
- Counties/agencies must submit a completed VIPER ID form containing all of the relevant information, including the VIPER ID pulled from their respective list to VIPER for activation.
- VIPER POC's should maintain their inventory and will be required to submit an annual "true-up" document to VIPER in January of each year. **The "true-up" document for 2015 is due no later than Friday, 30 January 2015** and should be forwarded to [VIPER-activate@ncshp.org](mailto:VIPER-activate@ncshp.org).
- Updated instructions along with a new form are available online at <http://www.ncdps.gov/Index2.cfm?a=000001,001148> and click on the Forms tab.

## **High Windy tower**

- On 30 October 2012, the 150' self-supporting High Windy tower located in Buncombe County fell due to high winds from Hurricane Sandy. VIPER is negotiating with AT&T to remove the current building at the site and replace it with a new building. AT&T is in the process of transferring ownership of their abandoned building to SHP. As soon as ownership is transferred, we will replace it with a new one and bring the site back online. The paperwork is being reviewed by legal counsel from AT&T and SHP.

