Site Acquisition:

We continue working through the acquisition of tower sites. We have a current RFP out to provide us with tower mapping for our current county-owned tower sites. Those bids are due back to the County in the early part of November.

A structural analysis has been completed at the following sites:

- Milford Water Tank, Milford Township, PA.
- Holland Township, NJ.
- Nockamixon State Park, Haycock Township, PA.
- Thorpe Homestead, Upper Makefield Township, PA.

Pending structural analysis work is on the calendar for the sites owned by Crown Castle and American Tower.

Change Orders Status:

We are making progress on the change orders that are pending to get the project back online. Since we are still waiting for those documents to be completed by Motorola’s staff, the project is still in a formal holding pattern.

Hiring Status for Dispatchers:

Most recently, the department has received authorization to hire 5 new dispatchers. We are in the preliminary phase for this process and expect to hire in January 2013. This position is posted on the Bucks County website and applicants can apply online. We have sent out the notice to all fire and EMS agencies as well. Please be sure to share the word with any of your colleagues who may be interested in applying for a job with us.

Order Sheets:

We have updated the equipment pricing sheets to allow you to automatically calculate your costs. Please contact Mike Dydak if you need this document sent to you.

Encryption:

The County Commissioners have rendered a decision for encryption on the new radio system. A formal letter will be sent to all chiefs in the county shortly. This is a summary of the decision:

1. Zone traffic will remain “in the clear” on the new system.
2. Dedicated and encrypted TAC channels will be available to law enforcement system users for sensitive or critical incidents that require protected communication. If encryption is needed on the fly, the system has that capability built into it. The only users with access to the encryption will be law enforcement officials.
3. Clear communications allow for inter-and intra-agency interoperability. When mutual aid is required from out of the county, or for large-scale incidents, having the transmissions “in the clear” will make for easier communications for all of those responders dispatched to the incident.

4. The cost to provide that encryption capability on a fulltime basis would be an excessive burden for us all to bear. In today’s economic climate, we will be unable to fiscally support this encryption direction. The County has made a significant investment in providing this modern, state of the art communications system, and ultimately, we must be able to meet the needs of all of our users and adhere to federal interoperability requirements.

**Ordering processes:**

The chairmen of the Advisory Boards are meeting with us in the first week of November to firm up ordering processes. We have a draft prepared for ordering procedures we want to review with them so that everyone is familiar with what process we want to follow. Once formalized, we will publish it to the project website.

**Fireground:**

We are waiting for updates from Motorola’s engineering team about the fireground monitoring in the new system. We have given direction to Motorola that this is what our fire service has asked for:

1. Radio IDs (“emergency button activation”) passes through the system and be displayed both on the radios operating on the fireground and additionally at the dispatcher’s console.
2. The ability to have recordings of the events that take place on the fire ground channel.
3. Dispatchers have an awareness of what’s transpiring on the fireground.

As this continues to evolve, we will keep you posted.