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FEMA

October 19, 2009

Organization for the Advancement of Structural Information Standards  
Emergency Management Technical Committee  
Post Office Box 455  
Billerica, MA 01821

Dear OASIS Emergency Management Technical Committee (EMTC) Members,

On behalf of FEMA, I would like to thank you as a group and as individuals for lending your time and expertise to create the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Version 1.2 Profile.

FEMA is especially pleased with several aspects of the process conducted by OASIS. It was essential that the standards setting process be open and transparent. This aspect was critical to arriving at a standard truly created by the public. We note with pleasure the number of responses OASIS received in the first round of comments. That number can surely be said to represent a cross section of the interested community. FEMA thanks you for your patience and diligence in considering each comment for its merits and its contribution to a better product in the end.

Most of all, FEMA values the personal commitment of each committee member to bring this challenging specification to fruition. Your personal expertise and range of perspectives ensured that the outcome will represent the true state of the art as it exists now and will position us for future advances.

Each of you can take pride in the fact that the result of your focus, time and diligence will be a more robust alert and warning system, bringing increased interoperability and functionality to emergency management systems across the country.

FEMA looks forward to a continued partnership with your organization, as we ensure future versions of the Profile continue to address the requirements of the alert and warning community and an important mission objective of the IPAWS Program.

You have my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Damon C. Penn".

Damon C. Penn  
Assistant Administrator  
National Continuity Programs