

## **FBMS Implementation Telecast Transcript**

### **Q & A Segment #3 & Key Dates**

>> T. Garrett: Couple of more faxes in from our viewers.

This is from Bob in Las Vegas.

That's a good question.

How do we assure our partners that they will receive payments under systems agreements when funds are from fee collections at recreation areas.

Mike.

>> M. Ferguson: I think that's a fair question, not only related to fee collection areas but with all of our vendors.

Again, those kind of payments is something that we're still working on the strategy on how to work through.

But obviously, you know, these are important partnerships that we have with folks, and we're going to figure out a way, and like we talked about earlier, the ELT spent quite a bit of time talking about how do we get folks paid and what are the priorities for paying those folks.

And the partnerships in Las Vegas -- Las Vegas isn't a small community but the partnerships in on-the-ground mission relate the work is the stuff that's a priority.

We will be working out the best strategy we can to make as many of those payment as fast as we can.

There will be -- like we mentioned earlier, that we're still investigating the strategy.

Part of that strategy will be we'll have some talking points that will be on the website and will distribute to all field offices that will run through, give you some things that you can talk to your partners from.

Some basic messages that will allow us to be consistent when we deal with those folks.

>> T. Garrett: Julia.

>> J. Dougan: Another thing we're doing is we're just about ready to send out a notification to as many BLM vendors as possible, more than 8,000, telling them about the conversion to FBMS, asking for their patience during this period, we're going to be directing them to our website, so we can keep them updated on all of the most current information.

We'll also make sure and share the information we're sending out in the notice with you in the field, because we know many of you are likely to be the ones that get the phone call from that vendor or that partner that you work with on an everyday basis.

So, we want you to be able to also share the direction and strategy we are using.

>> T. Garrett: All right.

Thank you, Bob in Las Vegas for that question.

Sally in the gunnyson field office in Colorado sent this question in.

I have a lease agreement with a private trailer court to for a BLM trailer.

This lease is entered into ideas in early October so the vendor can continue to be paid at the beginning of the fiscal year.

I did the entry into ideas and it's rented through the contract specialist in the state office in Denver.

How will this affect my vendor if you can't enter the agreement into ideas for the new fiscal year, should I have someone who has access do it?

Will my vendor be paid, if not, what will be the delay?

Julia, you can speak to those questions or that example?

>> J. Dougan: I think I can.

The field will have access to a limited version of ideas but it's almost more of for record-keeping purposes because the funds will not obligate.

But obviously, this is probably one of the vendors that Mike spoke about.

Someone that we do business with in a smaller community like Gunnison that may not be able to wait two to three months to be paid from us.

That's something we want to look at prioritizing, so again that's going to need to be a close coordination between that local procurement entity and Jeanette's staff at the NOC, so we could prioritize that payment.

>> M. Ferguson: One of the other things we're look at relative to payments and paying vendors is, you know, we don't -- there's a lot of vendors out there that we don't pay using charge cards. There's some we probably can.

So, we're looking at you know, what option do we have to use charge cards for vendor payments and can we bring people from states with higher levels of procurement authority into Denver to work with the contracting and acquisition folks to make some of those payments.

I don't know how that's all going to work out yet but that's one of the options that we're exploring.

>> T. Garrett: Thanks to Sally in Gunnison for that question.

We have a fax in now from Elaine, and her question is regarding the new fire codes, there's no guidance for the meaning of all of the new codes.

They're numerous.

Will we be provide a glossary similar as well as guidance as to what type of firework attaches to what code and when will we receive same.

Preparedness, ready reserve and suppression and direct state assistance and so forth.

See the attached list for more.

Show you a lot of the questions -- Julia, a lot of the questions, some of the questions we're hearing will be answered in specific detail in the training that's coming up, and so forth.

And in the information that's online.

But what is your answer to Elaine's question for now?

>> J. Dougan: Well, Tony, when we were working on the reference guide, one of the things that really became apparent to me was the significant changes that are happening for the fire community.

And while the reference guide does not contain specific guidance on the use of the new fire codes, I spent some time talking to Tim Murphy at NIFC, and he assured me that his staff is ready and prepared to help people through this transition, especially in these early pay periods, and I would really suggest that they work closely with NIFC, if they have any questions about how to use the fire codes.

We hope then in a short time, to be able to develop a little more detailed guidance on that.

>> T. Garrett: All right.

Thanks, Julia.

Jeanette in Denver, Andy in Oregon has a follow-up question to something that you mentioned earlier.

He says, Jeanette mentioned that we would only have minimal reports available to us at the beginning.

Do we know what reports will be available and when do you see us getting back to our current MIS reporting capability?

>> J. Callahan: Well, unfortunately, I don't know what reports we'll have available to us when we come up live.

All of that is still being worked.

EMIS is constructed a little differently than MIS in that -- I don't want to get too technical, but that EMIS uses info cues.

That's a different approach than we have today in MIS.

The development of the reports are going to be a training issue.

So that folks will be able to use them.

We're probably going to want to have some standardized reports set up so that when you ask for the result of A plus B equals C, we're sure that all of the folks are getting the same A plus B equals C because there's a lot of ways that you could get a different answer if you don't program it just exactly right.

So, we are going to have the standard reports out there.

The problem is we can't develop them or can't begin to develop them until we come live on FBMS.

So, that's why there's going to be a bit of a delay.

Now, that doesn't keep folks out from the field who have had the EMIS training from going out there and trying to develop reports, but again, there is that danger that we won't be consistent across the BLM, and that's something that I think we need to be very careful about.

So, it's just going to take a while to get all of those reports out there.

>> M. Ferguson: If I could just add to that.

You know, it's parallel and a lot similar to the process when we went through when we developed the current MIS.

You know, we didn't have all of the reporting capability that we have now when we started.

We gradually over time learned, and built some new reports.

And I think the same thing is going to happen when we change to EMIS.

It's in some ways unfortunate that we have to take a step backwards, but that's part of the price you pay for being ahead of the rest of the department.

We have had a much morrow bust reporting system than anybody else had, so in order to allow folks to catch up, we'll have to take a little bit of a step backwards and rebuild things.

But the hope is that eventually, you know, two or three years down the road, we'll be back up to 90, 95% of the capability we currently have.

>> T. Garrett: Thank you, Mike.

Let's go now to additional questions that have come in from viewers.

Here is one from Paul in New Mexico.

I pay many small vendors and reimbursement of individual volunteers using convenience checks.

Do I understand correctly that convenience check also disappear post-FBMS, or will this payment method be available during the blackout period?

Jeanette, could you answer that question from Paul in New Mexico?

>> J. Callahan: Well, I haven't heard anything about convenience checks disappearing after FBMS comes up.

If that's true, I haven't heard about it.

I will check on that, though.

In terms of convenience checks during blackout, I haven't really had a discussion about that, but

I would guess that that could be that they could be used.

However, we would want to limit that.

As always.

>> T. Garrett: All right.

So that's another area, Paul, where we'll have more definitive answer for you in the days ahead.

Another question, this one from Angie in the Las Vegas field office in Nevada.

We have numerous no-year money accounts.

When will the carry-over funds be available.

Also any idea when gov-trip will be fixed?

Two different questions.

Some people are looking at hiring staff to just do travel because it takes so long.

Mike, you were going to talk about that?

>> M. Ferguson: Let me take the travel first.

The gov-trip one first.

We have actually had quite a bit of discussion, not surprisingly, in recent weeks over gov-trip, and in the course of that conversation, one of the things that we discovered was the developers of gov-trip were working with organizations that follow a little bit different business model than what we have.

They were working with organizations that had travel clerks that processed travel for all of their employees.

BLMs had a different model.

We have most of our employees doing their own travel in order to cut down on some of the administrative overhead costs.

What gov-trip is causing us to do is rethink that model, and one of the things that we're starting to talk about in the ELT and I have had some conversations with Henry, is we need to look at the relative cost and benefit of either one option would be to train all of our employees how to use a system that will probably never be totally user-friendly versus the other option, where we hire some travel clerks to do nothing but process travel vouchers for everybody.

I don't know what the cost benefit ratio for the two options will turn out to be.

But one of the things that gov-trip has done is it's caused us to rethink that business model.

>> T. Garrett: Mike, what about the question of know your money accounts and carry-over funds being available.

>> M. Ferguson: Well, I'm not aware of, and Jeanette can correct me if I'm wrong, but I'm not aware of any changes in the availability of carry-over or know your money as a result of converting to FBMS.

>> T. Garrett: Okay.

Another question that came in, if we do travel, if we do travel that is considered essential, when do we use the new codes in gov-trip?

>> J. Dougan: Well, Tony, it's my understanding that any travel that would occur in FY-09 using

FY-09 money, we would need to put those codes into gov-trip.

Jeanette, is that correct.

>> J. Callahan: Yes, that's correct.

>> T. Garrett: Okay.

Thank you.

>> J. Dougan: So, if it's FY-09 travel use the new FBMS codes.

>> T. Garrett: All right.

Another question about those codes from Mike in Arizona.

What's the official date by which we enter the new codes in gov-trip and on the same -- and on the timesheets for 288s for casual hires to the casual payment center?

>> J. Dougan: Well, we just went through the gov-trip one.

That is anything that's FY-09 travel.

We use the FBMS codes.

Time sheets, and I think they're talking about specific time sheets for casual hire, and I'm not familiar with that piece.

Jeanette, are you?

>> J. Callahan: No, I'm really not.

But in general, anything that is a fiscal year '09 cost would be coded with fiscal year '09 coding.

>> J. Dougan: Or anything that's pay period 20 in fiscal year 2008 also is FBMS coding.

But I think that's one that we need to follow up.

So I'd appreciate it if Mike would send me or Jeanette an email, and we'll follow up with that, in case there's some special nuance we're not aware of there.

>> T. Garrett: All right.

So please do that, Mike in Arizona.

We want to thank Mike and all of our viewers who have submitted questions or comments

during this period.

And you have contributed to the discussion.

Thank you very much.

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At this point, I think it might be useful, Mike, to ask you to review some of the specifics of what's happening and when this FBMS.

>> M. Ferguson: Okay.

Well, here are the key dates -- we are currently in the midst of user acceptance training.

That's one of the reasons that Jeanette is joining us from Denver.

That's going on very intensively right now.

So, she wasn't able to make the trip to Phoenix.

Pilot training will begin in about ten days.

The blackout period runs from September 23rd to November 10th.

Instructor-led training and computer-based training will begin in the middle of that period October 20th and we'll have a catchup period from November 10th through the end of November.

By December 1st, if all goes well, we should be up and running.