

NY STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE GRANTS FOR “CATSKILL CONSORTIUM” COUNTIES

The first round of grants from the Statewide Interoperable Grant Program have been announced and will go to a six county “Catskill Consortium”. The grants will help the counties get new towers, construction, transmitters, and programming to upgrade the public safety radio system. Counties covered by the grants include:

Delaware: \$1,078,000

Greene: \$893,000

Otsego: \$1,128,000

Sullivan: \$1,198,000

Schoharie: \$858,000

Ulster: \$978,000

These counties have (as well as others across the state) have had problems with poor communication and coverage during everyday operations and in large scale disasters due to their outdated systems. Delaware County’s expenditures on communications upgrades could reach anywhere from \$7 to \$15 million in order to provide microwave inter-connectivity between the counties and to program the national interoperability channels to bring fire, EMS, law enforcement and other agencies to a common platform when needed. Delaware plans to have the new system turned on in three to four years and plans to have its communications system completely transitioned in five years.