

DATE: January 12, 2026

TO: All Central & East Lakeshore EAS Operational Area Radio, TV, Cable Operators

FROM: Greg Savoldi – Chairman, State of Ohio SECC

RE: 96.5 WAKS-FM Now Providing Alternative to WTAM 1100AM For EAS Monitoring

Hello and Happy New Year!

I'm excited to announce a project we developed in 2025 is now ready for use by any radio, television or cable operator in the Central & East Lakeshore EAS Operational Area.

In an effort to provide a more reliable, static-free alternative to WTAM 1100 AM, we've created an FM station monitoring option. 96.5 WAKS-FM is now providing the same level of local, state and national EAS alerts as WTAM. Why the option?

Although WTAM operates with 50,000 watts, AM reception is becoming increasingly difficult with the proliferation of more man-made electrical, electronic and wireless technologies that create noise and interference for many receivers. If you have clear reception of WTAM 1100 and receive weekly tests and alerts reliably, there is no need to change. However, if you experience weeks where you don't receive a test or alert from WTAM, or you've heard an event like a tornado warning relayed on your facility that came from WTAM that had static, buzz and noise in it, WAKS-FM may be a great option for your EAS monitoring! Being FM, it naturally will sound clearer and static-free compared to AM. Attached is a coverage map of WAKS-FM showing its 60dBu contour. Within the red circle, you should get reliable reception of WAKS-FM with a modest FM antenna. Beyond this circle, an outdoor FM Yagi style directional antenna should provide reliable reception up to 40 air miles from Brecksville.

You are not required to file any documentation with the FCC or State of Ohio SECC to make this monitoring change. The choice is yours whether you continue monitoring WTAM-AM or switch to WAKS-FM for the LP-1 monitoring requirement.

Please note that WCLV, 90.3 FM, remains the LP-2 station in the operational area. Per the State EAS Plan, all stations are required to monitor at least two LP-class stations. If you cannot receive WCLV reliably, please contact me for options.

Again, for monitoring in the Central & East Lakeshore Operational Area, you now have a choice between WTAM-1100AM and WAKS-FM 96.5 for LP1 service. WCLV remains the required LP2 monitoring source. WAKS-FM will be designated as an LP-1A.

My thanks to Radio One Cleveland and iHeart Media Cleveland engineering for their assistance in developing, deployment and testing.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact me at gregsavoldi@iheartmedia.com.

Thank you for participating in the State of Ohio EAS Plan in its mission to provide and protect our communities with timely information.

Sincerely,

Greg Savoldi
Chairman – State of Ohio SECC
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