



# NEWS

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**Federal Communications Commission**  
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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 20, 2000

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## **FCC SEEKS COMMENT ON COMPUTER MODEL PREDICTING SIGNAL INTENSITY TO DETERMINE UNSERVED HOUSEHOLDS** *Implementation of Satellite Home Viewer Improvement Act Continues Expeditiously*

Washington, DC – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today released a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* seeking comment on rules to improve the computer model that predicts signal intensity at a household for the purpose of determining eligibility for receiving distant television broadcast signals via satellite.

Today's action is the third of numerous proceedings to implement the Satellite Home Viewer Improvement Act (SHVIA) that was enacted on November 29, 1999. This law, for the first time, permits satellite carriers to transmit local television broadcast signals into local markets, also known as "local-into-local." The Act also authorizes satellite carriers to provide distant broadcast programming to eligible subscribers. A household is eligible to receive distant TV signals via satellite if it is "unserved" and can not receive a signal of Grade B intensity using a conventional outdoor TV antenna.

In February 1999, the FCC issued a Satellite Home Viewer Act Report and Order, which among other things, created the Individual Location Longley-Rice (ILLR) computer model to predict households that are served and unserved. In adopting this model, the FCC recognized the need to account for vegetation and buildings as part of the model and asked the affected parties in the industry to provide guidance on how to incorporate these factors.

In SHVIA, Congress codified the ILLR model and recognized, as the FCC had in creating it, that the model should include "terrain, building structures and other land cover variations." SHVIA directs the FCC to revise the current model accordingly, within 180 days of enactment. Today's notice proposes a method for incorporating vegetation and buildings into the current computer model and seeks comment or alternate proposals from interested parties.

### **Comment deadlines:**

Comments due: February 22, 2000  
Reply comments due: March 7, 2000

Action by the Commission, January 13, 2000, by Notice of Proposed Rule Making (FCC 00-17). Chairman Kennard, Commissioners Ness, Furchtgott-Roth, Powell and Tristani.

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ET Docket No. 00-11