



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

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. Cir. 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 25, 2007

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Clyde Ensslin, 202-418-0506
Email: clyde.ensslin@fcc.gov

FCC Initiates Third Review of DTV Transition

Commission Takes Steps to Complete the Nation's Transition to Digital Television

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) today began its third periodic review of the conversion of the nation’s broadcast television system from analog to digital television (“DTV”). The DTV transition will increase efficient use of the spectrum, expand consumer choice for video programming, and increase the amount of spectrum available for public safety and other wireless services. In its rulemaking initiated today, the FCC proposes procedures and rule changes necessary to complete the transition.

In 2005, Congress mandated that after February 17, 2009, full-power broadcast stations must transmit only in digital signals, and may no longer transmit analog signals. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking adopted today proposes deadlines and procedures to ensure that broadcasters complete construction of their post-transition, digital facilities by the statutory deadline so that service to viewers is not disrupted.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposes the following actions, among others, to facilitate the transition for full-power television stations:

- Restrict the grant of future extensions of time to construct digital facilities;
- Offer expedited processing to stations applying for a construction permit for their post-transition channel based on the new DTV Table of Allotments;
- Examine the circumstances in which stations may reduce or terminate analog service to facilitate construction of post-transition facilities;
- Permit stations that have different pre-transition and post-transition channels to devote their resources to building their post-transition channel;
- Require stations by December 1st, 2007 to file a form with the Commission detailing the current status of the station’s digital transition, the additional steps the station must take before the transition deadline, and a plan for how the station intends to meet the deadline;

- Establish February 17, 2009 as the construction deadline for stations with new channel allotments in the upcoming new DTV Table of Allotments.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking also seeks comment on other steps the Commission can take to facilitate the timely construction by stations of their post-transition facilities.

Action by the Commission, April 25, 2007, by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 07-70). Chairman Martin, Commissioners Copps, Adelstein, Tate and McDowell. Separate Statements Issued by Chairman Martin, Commissioners Copps, Adelstein, Tate and McDowell.

MB Docket No.: 07-91

Media Bureau Staff Contact: Evan Baranoff, evan.baranoff@fcc.gov, 202-418-7142

-FCC-