

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:54 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: B&C: Markey Has First Class Solution To Expediting Coupons

-----Original Message-----

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 8:54 PM
To: RMCDSTAFF
Subject: Fw: B&C: Markey Has First Class Solution To Expediting Coupons

----- Original Message -----

From: Michael Knipe [REDACTED]
To: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Fri Jan 09 20:07:03 2009
Subject: B&C: Markey Has First Class Solution To Expediting Coupons

Markey Has First Class Solution To Expediting Coupons

Draft now circulating would allow NTIA to start procession requests that were put on hold

By John Eggerton -- Broadcasting & Cable, 1/9/2009 3:37:00 PM

A draft is now circulating of Massachusetts Rep. Ed Markey's bill to free up more DTV-to-analog converter box coupons.

As expected, the bill would make an accounting change to allow the National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA) to start processing requests it has put on hold due to lack of access to funds.

But it would also require those with freed-up requests to get their coupons via first class mail, at least up until Feb. 17, 2009, and beyond if that is deemed necessary. The bill does not signal Markey does not support at least exploring the possibility of moving that date, as Barack Obama has proposed, said an aide. "Just because the draft bill doesn't move the date doesn't mean that can't happen in a separate vehicle. This bill is designed to be short and to the point of dealing with current waiting-list issue. The decision on date switch can come later."

NTIA has been sending the coupons out via the more cost-efficient bulk mail designation. The difference between a 42-cent first-class stamp and a 25-cent standard may seem small, but multiplied by some 17 million envelopes—figuring for 33.5 million coupons the agency has money to issue if all of them are redeemed—the savings could be close to \$3 million. Markey's Energy & Commerce Committee called on the Post Office to expedite mailings last summer, but the Post Master General said it would be impossible to do so with coupons already mailed.

A spokesman for Markey said the change in the law would not change NTIA's relationship to IBM, which subcontracted the distribution, or with the Post Office. "The answer is that it is "pre-sorted" first class and that NTIA has the money currently to do this and would be paying IBM to perform this." He said, adding that NTIA and IBM are "already discussing how to do this."

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From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:54 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: B&C: Waiting List For DTV Coupons Continues To Grow

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From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 8:54 PM
To: RMCSTAFF
Subject: Fw: B&C: Waiting List For DTV Coupons Continues To Grow

----- Original Message -----

From: Michael Knipe [REDACTED]
To: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Fri Jan 09 20:08:38 2009
Subject: B&C: Waiting List For DTV Coupons Continues To Grow

Waiting List For DTV Coupons Continues To Grow

Clearing out backlog without swift congressional action unlikely.

By John Eggerton -- Broadcasting & Cable, 1/9/2009 2:24:00 PM

The waiting list for converter box coupons continues to grow, and the prospects for clearing out the backlog without swift congressional action appear slim to none.

According to the latest figures from the National Telecommunications & Information Administration, there are more than 1.35 million requests for DTV-to-analog converter-box coupons on its waiting list, with hundreds of thousands more coming in every day. NTIA began the waiting list last Sunday, when it hit its \$1.34 billion ceiling on funding for the program, which issues \$40 coupons toward the purchase of DTV-to-analog converter boxes that allow viewers of over-the-air analog TV signals to continue to receive a picture after those signals go digital on Feb. 17--or not, depending on current efforts to delay that date.

According to NTIA spokesman Todd Sedmak, 325,000 people on that list have been sent their coupons, which happens after a new batch of coupons expires and the money is freed up. But that 300,000-400,000 taken off the list is now just a fraction of number being added in the same time frame.

For example, the number of new requests on Monday alone, the first day of the freeze, was 465,000.

NTIA could get some help soon. Legislators are working on bills that would free up the money.

NTIA says that so far, a little over 19 million converter boxes have been purchased with the coupons, and it has enough to cover 33 million boxes. But with it taking four weeks or more to "apply [for], buy and try" converter boxes, as the NTIA likes to say, it has been advising consumers to apply for their coupons by the end of last month to insure plenty of time to be ready for the Feb. 17 transition date.

For millions, that now translates to, apply, wait and wait.

While Barack Obama has called for a delay in the DTV transition date, citing that backlog, Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez does not support that move. "We think the statutory date made sense, and its certainty has been a key element of efforts by the government and the private sector to raise awareness and drive preparedness," he said in a statement Friday. "That's why we supported it. We still do."

"We're working closely to ensure a smooth transition, and we'll let the next Administration comment on the President-elect's views," he added.

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:57 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: DTV update: DTV-delay appears more likely
Importance: High
Attachments: DTV 012309.pdf

From: Anna-Maria Kovacs [mailto:amkovacs@regulatorysourcenes.com]
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2009 11:56 AM
To: amkovacs@regulatorysourcenes.com
Subject: DTV update: DTV-delay appears more likely
Importance: High

TELECOM REGULATORY NOTE**DTV update: DTV-delay appears more likely**

- **Senators Rockefeller and Hutchinson, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, have announced a compromise that is likely to delay the DTV transition to June 12th. With this compromise, it now seems very likely that the delay will occur.**

What this means to investors:

The DTV transition is likely to be delayed till June 12th, but unlikely to be delayed further. With additional converter-box funding out of the stimulus bill, and four extra months for a concerted consumer-education campaign, chances for a smooth transition are improved.

This will create delay for wireless carriers that expected to occupy that spectrum, but not an intolerable delay.

Discussion:

- **Senators Rockefeller and Hutchinson will jointly introduce a bill that will:**
 - **Delay the transition date to June 12th.**
 - **Allow over-the-air stations that are ready sooner to make the switch to do so.**
 - **Allow public safety to use vacated spectrum, where a station chooses to vacate before June 12th.**
 - **Allow consumers with expired coupons to apply for replacements.**
 - **Give the FCC auction authority to pay for delay costs.**

- **Delaying the transition has the support of the Administration, which should help it get the support of most or all Democrats.**
- **While there is considerable opposition from Republicans to delaying the transition, Senator Hutchinson's support should help get it garner enough Republican support to get through the Senate, which is usually the most likely hurdle.**
- **Separately, the House stimulus bill would allocate an additional \$650 million to the DTV transition, by funding more converter-box coupons, and consumer outreach and education.**

Please see the attached note for the full discussion and for our required disclosures.

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January 23, 2009

TELECOM REGULATORY NOTE

DTV update: DTV-delay appears more likely

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Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:58 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: Senate votes DTV-delay to June 12th--House vote expected today
Importance: High
Attachments: DTV 012709.pdf

From: Anna-Maria Kovacs [mailto:amkovacs@regulatorysourcenes.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2009 2:40 AM
To: amkovacs@regulatorysourcenes.com
Subject: Senate votes DTV-delay to June 12th--House vote expected today
Importance: High

TELECOM REGULATORY NOTE

**Senate votes DTV-delay to June 12th
House vote expected today**

- **The Senate voted unanimously yesterday to delay the DTV transition to June 12th. The House is expected to vote the bill today.**
- **This legislation will:**
 - **Delay the transition date to June 12th.**
 - **Allow over-the-air stations to make the switch as soon as they are ready, without having to wait till June 12th.**
 - **Allow public safety to use vacated spectrum, where a station chooses to vacate before June 12th.**
 - **Allow consumers with expired coupons to apply for replacements.**
- **Senators Rockefeller and Hutchison, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, worked out a compromise last week that addressed the issues that concerned many Republican members of Congress. Key to passage of this bill was an assurance that this is a one-time delay.**
- **Separately, the House stimulus bill would allocate an additional \$650 million to the DTV transition, by funding more converter-box coupons, and consumer outreach and education.**

What this means to investors:

We now expect the DTV transition to occur fully on June 12th, but some areas will experience it

sooner. With additional converter-box funding out of the stimulus bill, and four extra months for a concerted consumer-education campaign, chances for a smooth transition are improved. For the duration, the DTV transition will be the major focus for the work of both the FCC and NTIA.

The DTV-transition delay obviously pushes back the date when wireless carriers can take over the spectrum they acquired, but not to an intolerable point.

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January 27, 2009

TELECOM REGULATORY NOTE

Senate votes DTV-delay to June 12th House vote expected today

- **The Senate voted unanimously yesterday to delay the DTV transition to June 12th. The House is expected to vote the bill today.**
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Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 8:01 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: At least for now, House rejects DTV-delay
Importance: High
Attachments: DTV 012909.pdf

From: Anna-Maria Kovacs [mailto:amkovacs@regulatorysourcenes.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 12:04 AM
To: amkovacs@regulatorysourcenes.com
Subject: At least for now, House rejects DTV-delay
Importance: High

TELECOM REGULATORY NOTE**At least for now, House rejects DTV-delay**

- **The House yesterday rejected a bill to delay the DTV transition to June 12th. This is the bill that was passed in the Senate on Monday by unanimous consent. The House vote was done under suspension of the rules, a mode that limits debate and requires a two-thirds majority to pass the bill.**
- **The House Democratic leadership, working with the Administration, will now have to decide whether is still wants to pursue the DTV-delay bill. If so, the best chance would probably be to go through the normal process, which takes more time but only requires a simple majority to pass the bill.**
- **The Republicans appear united in their belief that the transition could still go smoothly, if \$250 million is made available for converter-box coupons immediately. They do not believe that a delay is necessary or desirable.**
- **The Democrats, on the other hand, would like more time and resources. The stimulus bill makes \$650 million available for the program, mostly for converter-box coupons but also for public education. Thus, the Democrats would have to provide all the votes for a delay. However, the Democrats have a more-than-large enough majority in the House to do so, if they consider the delay to be a priority.**

What this means to investors:

It will take another week or two before we know for sure whether the DTV transition will occur on February 17th or on June 12th.

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January 29, 2009

TELECOM REGULATORY NOTE

At least for now, House rejects DTV-delay

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Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 8:05 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: Congress votes to delay DTV-transition to June 12th
Importance: High
Attachments: DTV 020409.pdf

From: Anna-Maria Kovacs [mailto:amkovacs@regulatorysourcenotes.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 5:26 PM
To: amkovacs@regulatorysourcenotes.com
Subject: Congress votes to delay DTV-transition to June 12th
Importance: High

TELECOM REGULATORY NOTE

Congress votes to delay DTV-transition to June 12th

- **Both the House and Senate have now voted a bill to delay the DTV transition to June 12th. We expect President Obama to sign it into law quickly, since the delay was initially requested by the Administration.**
- **The bill allows stations that are ready sooner to make the transition when they are ready, and also allows public safety to take over spectrum as it becomes available. However, it may take a bit of time for both the stations and public safety to work through the necessary processes at the FCC. The process will be somewhat more complex than an all-at-once process. For example, there may be issues in geographic areas where some stations transition early and others don't and that may slow down the ability of public safety to take over the spectrum. Some consumers may also become confused when the transition does not occur in their area at the expected time, particularly if it occurs between February 17th and June 12th, the two dates that have been or will be well publicized.**
- **The stimulus bill makes \$650 million available for the program, mostly for converter-box coupons but also for public education. Given that there is now a backlog of about 2 million coupon requests as well as many households who have not even applied but will need the converter boxes, the funding will be helpful. There will also be a need to re-educate the public regarding the new transition date and the possibility of a transition during the interim between the February and June dates. Another issue that will require outreach is the "digital cliff" issue, i.e., the problem that consumers may no longer be able to get some stations they are used to getting, once the transition occurs, because the stations' digital footprints may be different than their analog footprints were. The transition will become a focal issue for the FCC and NTIA, who are likely to continue to enlist the help of industry in getting the message to consumers.**

- **The FCC's open meeting tomorrow will focus on DTV issues, with a series of panels of experts who will discuss the status of the transition and the work that needs to be done. Chairman Copps' letter earlier today to Congressmen Barton and Stearns indicates that quite a few stations are ready to transition by February 17th, but the status of many others is not yet clear. Chairman Copps has made it clear that a smooth transition is the agency's top priority for now, and Commissioners Adelstein and McDowell have made it equally clear that they plan to work with him to make the process as smooth as possible for consumers.**
- **It is an indication of the importance of the issue to the Administration that it has already appointed a new Deputy Assistant Secretary at NTIA to deal with the DTV-transition. Anna Gomez, who is taking charge of this effort, comes to NTIA with extensive experience at the FCC, as a staffer on the Hill, and most recently in Sprint's Washington office. Since this is an issue that requires cooperation between the Hill, the FCC, NTIA and other parts of the Administration, broadcasters, public safety, and the wireless industry, her familiarity with various parts of the process will be very helpful.**

What this means to investors:

The DTV-transition will now occur on June 12th, but may occur sooner in some markets. Congressional leaders have made a commitment that there will not be further delay. The roughly four-month delay involves cost to stations who can't migrate fully in February as well as to the wireless companies who had hoped to get the spectrum in February, but should improve the chances of ensuring that all who need converter-box coupons can get them.

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Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:12 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: Kennard and Powell on DTV delay

Importance: High

-----Original Message-----

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 12:31 AM
To: RMCSTAFF
Subject: Fw: Kennard and Powell on DTV delay
Importance: High

FYI

----- Original Message -----

From: Zachem, Kathy <Kathy_Zachem@Comcast.com>
To: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Fri Jan 09 00:11:18 2009
Subject: FW: Kennard and Powell on DTV delay

NY Times
January 9, 2009
Op-Contributors
Don't Touch That Dial
By WILLIAM KENNARD and MICHAEL POWELL

THE countdown clock is ticking on the digital television transition and it is becoming increasingly clear that the nation will not be ready. Analog television broadcasts are scheduled to stop on Feb. 17 and, after that, only digital signals are to be available. Then millions of Americans who rely on analog TV sets and antennas must start using converter boxes that will allow them to receive digital signals, or see only a black screen.

In 2005, Congress devised a program meant to ensure that this transition would be smooth. But with 40 days to go, it is now clear that we are heading for a train wreck - unless Congress delays the transition for a few months to allow more time to prepare.

People who subscribe to cable or satellite services or have a newer television with a digital tuner are not at risk of losing their programming. But as many as 19 million American households still rely solely on over-the-air analog television, and perhaps another 19 million use over-the-air in combination with cable or satellite. This population is disproportionately made up of poorer households, the elderly and members of minority groups.

To ease the burden of buying a converter box, Congress appropriated \$1.34 billion for 33.5 million \$40 coupons that can be redeemed at stores where the boxes are sold. (Boxes cost \$40 to \$80.) People who want these coupons must apply for them from the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and then it takes about four to six weeks for them to arrive in the mail. After 90 days, the coupons expire and no one is allowed to request a second one.

Demand for the coupons has been much greater than expected. More than 46 million requests have come in. And there aren't enough coupons to go around. Starting this week, all new requests are being put on a waiting list. No additional coupons can be issued until those already issued expire.

Of course, it is already too late to apply for a coupon and receive it before Feb. 17.

And coupons or no coupons, there is a real danger that there will not be enough converter boxes on store shelves to meet demand. So far 18 million boxes have been purchased using coupons, and an estimated 11 million are in inventory. But total demand is estimated to be 33 million to 60 million units. So there could easily be a shortage of 4 million to 31 million.

The government is also unprepared to handle the volume of calls from baffled television viewers once the switch to digital occurs. Nearly 1.5 million calls are expected to come into a special Federal Communications Commission call center on each of the two days following the transition, but this center will be able to handle only about 350,000 calls a day.

Moreover, many people will need help hooking up their converter boxes and setting up their antennas. (Picking up the digital signal may require reorienting or moving an antenna, or buying a more powerful digital antenna.) The government should train community groups to give assistance to those who need it.

By delaying the switch to digital by just a few months, and spending more money on the program - which the Obama transition team hinted on Thursday that it might favor - we could provide enough coupons and establish a stronger call center. There would be time for manufacturers to put more converter boxes in the pipeline. And we'd have enough time to work with community groups to provide technical assistance and support to the people who need it.

If the transition to digital TV goes badly, it will inconvenience millions. There is no reason to rush toward a fiasco when we can just as well take the time to make sure the change happens smoothly.

William Kennard was the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission from 1997 to 2001 and is a member of The New York Times board of directors. Michael Powell was the F.C.C. chairman from 2001 to 2005.

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:12 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: NY Times

-----Original Message-----

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 12:43 AM
To: RMCDSTAFF
Subject: Fw: NY Times

This should be the whole thing -- sorry about the cutoff in the earlier version.

----- Original Message -----

From: Tramont, Bryan <BTramont@wbkllaw.com>
To: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Fri Jan 09 00:24:57 2009
Subject: Fw: NY Times

-- Sent from Blackberry Device --

----- Original Message -----

From: Tramont, Bryan
To: Krinsky, Adam; Tramont, Bryan
Sent: Fri Jan 09 00:24:16 2009
Subject: NY Times

NY Times
January 9, 2009
Op-Contributors
Don't Touch That Dial
By WILLIAM KENNARD and MICHAEL POWELL

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To ease the burden of buying a converter box, Congress appropriated \$1.34 billion for 33.5 million \$40 coupons that can be redeemed at stores where the boxes are sold. (Boxes cost \$40 to \$80.) People who want these coupons must apply for them from the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and then it takes about four to six weeks for them to arrive in the mail. After 90 days, the

coupons expire and no one is allowed to request a second one.

Demand for the coupons has been much greater than expected. More than 46 million requests have come in. And there aren't enough coupons to go around. Starting this week, all new requests are being put on a waiting list. No additional coupons can be issued until those already issued expire.

Of course, it is already too late to apply for a coupon and receive it before Feb. 17.

And coupons or no coupons, there is a real danger that there will not be enough converter boxes on store shelves to meet demand. So far 18 million boxes have been purchased using coupons, and an estimated 11 million are in inventory. But total demand is estimated to be 33 million to 60 million units. So there could easily be a shortage of 4 million to 31 million.

The government is also unprepared to handle the volume of calls from baffled television viewers once the switch to digital occurs. Nearly 1.5 million calls are expected to come into a special Federal Communications Commission call center on each of the two days following the transition, but this center will be able to handle only about 350,000 calls a day.

Moreover, many people will need help hooking up their converter boxes and setting up their antennas. (Picking up the digital signal may require reorienting or moving an antenna, or buying a more powerful digital antenna.) The government should train community groups to give assistance to those who need it.

By delaying the switch to digital by just a few months, and spending more money on the program - which the Obama transition team hinted on Thursday that it might favor - we could provide enough coupons and establish a stronger call center. There would be time for manufacturers to put more converter boxes in the pipeline. And we'd have enough time to work with community groups to provide technical assistance and support to the people who need it.

If the transition to digital TV goes badly, it will inconvenience millions. There is no reason to rush toward a fiasco when we can just as well take the time to make sure the change happens smoothly.

William Kennard was the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission from 1997 to 2001 and is a member of The New York Times board of directors.

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-- Sent from Blackberry Device --

This electronic message transmission contains information from the law firm of Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP which may be confidential or privileged. The information is intended to be for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the contents of this information is prohibited. If you have received this electronic transmission in error, please notify us by telephone at 202.783.4141 or by electronic mail (administrator@wbklaw.com) immediately.

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:52 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: Comm Daily query re possible RMcD stmt re DTV transition delay

-----Original Message-----

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 11:05 AM
To: RMCSTAFF
Subject: Comm Daily query re possible RMcD stmt re DTV transition delay

FYI re Jonathan Make's query below.

----- Original Message -----

From: Make, Jonathan <jmake@warren-news.com>
To: Rosemary Harold; Brigid Calamis
Sent: Fri Jan 09 07:49:01 2009
Subject: RE: DTV 'grassroots' contracts and nightlight notice --> order

Hi Rosemary, Not a problem at all.
I'll check back later.
By the way. Brigid and Rosemary, does
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Comr. Copps issued a brief statement last night supporting it.
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--No information about the deliverables each contract recipient agreed to provide or other pertinent information is available, at least not yet, from OMD. Without such information, it's nearly impossible to understand the extent of services each contractor will provide. Did commissioners receive any information about this?

No. First official word we got about these contracts was the release of last night's news release, which contains all the detail we've been presented to date.

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Still nothing.

--I understand, albeit from a single industry source, that Gerard Saleme has been serving as a sort of ad hoc transition team DTV czar. Has he been involved in such a way?

Hope you both are well, and happy 2009.

I have heard that indirectly, too, but I have no direct knowledge on the subject.

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From: David Fiske [mailto:David.Fiske@fcc.gov]
Sent: Tue 1/6/2009 7:16 PM
Cc: Edie Herman; David Fiske
Subject: FCC Announces Selection of DTV Outreach Groups

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
January 6, 2009 Mary Diamond (202) 418-2388
Email: mary.diamond@fcc.gov

FCC Announces Selection of 12 Grassroots Groups for DTV Outreach Valued at \$8.4 Million

Focus is Reaching Seniors, People with Disabilities and Spanish-speaking households in Areas with Highest Over the Air Populations

Washington, DC - The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today announced it has selected 12 grassroots organizations and local agencies to help over the air viewers prepare for the digital transition. Today's selections are worth up to \$8.4 million and are the culmination of a full and open procurement process.

The Commission sought proposals to conduct outreach in all parts of the country, with a particular focus on the 82 markets with the highest over the air television populations. In particular, the FCC selected organizations dedicated to serving across the country populations most at risk in the digital transition including senior citizens, people with disabilities and Spanish-speaking households. Specifically, the FCC sought the assistance of local, regional and national organizations with converter box procurement and installation, establishment and staffing of local call centers, educating consumers about the transition and other local grass roots efforts.

Last September, as part of the Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2009, Congress appropriated \$20 million to the FCC to help fund its digital television outreach efforts. On September 15, the FCC initiated a broad public request for proposals to conduct community-based grassroots outreach work for the digital television transition.

Following federal procurement practices, the Commission conducted a full and open competition. The FCC made its requirements public and sent copies of the procurement documents to dozens of organizations, who could potentially assist over the air viewers in getting ready for the digital television transition. In addition, the Commission's Consumer Advisory Committee worked to ensure that all of the potentially impacted communities were aware of the request for proposals.

Below is a description of the vendors selected, the outreach the group will perform, and their award amounts.

Nationwide Plans

AARP is a national nonprofit service organization that will assist senior citizens across the entire United States with the DTV transition by using its existing sophisticated telephone service center to provide help to seniors with questions about the transition. The organization will train its existing help center staff to answer questions, provide information and telephone-based technical help to seniors who need assistance with setting up their converter boxes and antennas. AARP will publicize the availability of its help centers in its publications and newsletters targeted to seniors. Awarded : \$2,719,947.

Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD) is a national nonprofit service organization that will assist disabled citizens (specifically, deaf and hard of hearing Americans) by providing assistance and information on how to obtain and install DTV converter boxes, how to make use of DTV closed captioning services, and other related technical questions relating to the DTV transition. This organization will create a national telephone/TTY help center for deaf / hard of hearing consumers. CSD will also work with other national service organizations serving the deaf and hard-of- hearing communities to provide information about the DTV transition to these consumers. Awarded: \$1,117,441.

Hispanic Information and Telecommunication Network (HITN) will assist the Hispanic population nationwide with procuring and installing converter boxes, partner with local community organizations to establish walk-in help centers within the 20 U.S. television markets with the highest Hispanic population, and conduct outreach. It will also continue to provide assistance after the transition through March 31, 2009 and will promote the availability of converter box assistance on television and in newspapers.

HITN will provide free installations of converter boxes and emphasize need for Hispanics in U.S./Mexican border states to get converter boxes with analog pass-through so they can

continue to see both analog signals from Mexico and DTV from U.S. This will help people who may need to get new antennas, help those who haven't yet obtained converter boxes or who have trouble with installation. HITN has already conducted a field trial. Awarded : \$750,281.

State / Local / Regional Plans

PinTech Corporation is a private corporation that will offer consumer assistance to seniors, low income, disabled and non-English speaking and minority communities in a four-state region, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. This company will work with volunteers from state and local service organizations to assist consumers with information about the DTV conversion. In addition, this company will also provide a telephone DTV help center in each state to help citizens install their DTV converter boxes and will dispatch technicians to make on-site visits to assist customers whose problems cannot be solved over the phone. Awarded: \$ 2,839,783.

The Mayor's Commission on Technology is a local government agency serving Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It will help residents procure converter boxes by coordinating free installations via the city's 311 hotline. This organization will also create a local walk-in help centers and partner with local television stations to create local call-in centers. This organization will expand its DTV outreach efforts through e-mail blasts, town halls, and media interviews. It will provide assistance through March 13, 2009. It has already reached 25% of Philadelphia residents through its DTV outreach initiative. Awarded: \$166,244.

WXXI Public Broadcasting is a public broadcasting organization serving the greater Rochester, New York area, a rural region that includes many over-the-air television households. This organization will reach out to seniors, citizens in rural areas, disabled citizens, and minority communities in the area by conducting public educational outreach seminars about the DTV conversion and providing a toll-free telephone help center for consumers with additional questions. For elderly and disabled consumers who experience problems that cannot be solved over the phone, this organization will also send qualified professional technicians and the organization's own staff members in teams to make in-home visits to install converter boxes. Awarded: \$202,498.

VN TeamWork, Inc. is a local non-profit, community-based organization serving Southwest Houston and the Greater Houston area of Texas. In particular, it will target low-income, non-English speaking Asian Americans. It will help residents install converter boxes. This organization will also create a local walk-in help center and call-in center. In addition, this organization will publicize the DTV transition through radio announcements and the distribution of language-appropriate literature. It will continue providing assistance after the transition. Awarded: \$45,798.

Iowa Public Broadcasting Board is a state public broadcasting organization serving the state of Iowa. This organization will conduct a statewide education campaign to provide Iowans with information about the DTV conversion and how to prepare for it. In addition, this organization will also establish a telephone help center targeting seniors, citizens living in rural areas of the state, and low-income families and individuals in Iowa who need assistance making the transition to digital. The help center will answer consumer questions and provide technical troubleshooting advice over the phone, both before and in the days immediately following the February 17th transition date. Awarded: \$223,516.

Idaho Public Television is a state public broadcasting organization serving the state of Idaho. This organization will provide a statewide toll-free help line for citizens of Idaho (a rural state with a high percentage of viewers receiving television over the air) to answer consumer questions about the DTV transition. In addition, this organization's engineering staff will be available to assist consumers with technical troubleshooting issues by phone and email. Awarded: \$35,168.

Wisconsin Public Television is a state public broadcasting organization operated by a major state university system. This organization will provide statewide community

outreach events for citizens throughout Wisconsin such as informational Q&A presentations about the DTV transition and will work with state and local service organizations to reach out to citizens looking for help with installing and using their converter boxes. The organization will also provide a telephone help line to answer consumer questions about DTV and troubleshoot converter installation issues. This organization will specifically target hard to reach rural and minority populations (such as Hispanics and Hmong immigrant communities) in Wisconsin. Awarded: \$94,613.

Ohio State University / WOSU Public Media is a television organization serving the Columbus, Ohio television market, covering 55 counties in Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia. It will help residents procure converter boxes by coordinating free installations with local partner agencies. This organization will also create a local call-in and walk-in help center, and publicize the digital transition through live call-in shows on radio and television, as well as distributing printed materials through local libraries and partner organizations. It has already addressed 50 community groups about the transition and collected 2,300 coupons as of Oct. 2008 to donate to residents. Awarded: \$196,500.

Knox County CAC is a local non-profit agency serving Knox County, Tennessee, including Knoxville, Tennessee. It will help residents procure converter boxes by coordinating volunteers to accompany residents to stores or buying boxes on behalf of target groups, including seniors, people with disabilities, non-English speakers, and other minority groups. This organization will also create a local walk-in help center and call-in center. This organization will partner with local organizations including Meals on Wheels and Head Start, and the local Office on Aging to publicize the transition by distributing printed DTV materials. Awarded: \$36,241.

The total amount of the combined awards is \$8,428,031.

-FCC-

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:12 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: Copps statement

-----Original Message-----

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 12:52 AM
To: 'BTramont@wbklaw.com'
Subject: Fw: Copps statement

----- Original Message -----

From: Rmcd
To: RMCDSTAFF
Sent: Thu Jan 08 21:35:26 2009
Subject: Fw: Copps statement

!!!!!!

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

----- Original Message -----

From: Rehr, David K. <DRehr@nab.org>
To: Rmcd
Sent: Thu Jan 08 21:34:58 2009
Subject: Fw: Copps statement

-----Original Message-----

From: Wharton, Dennis <DWharton@nab.org>
To: Legal & Regulatory Affairs <Legal&RegulatoryAffairs@nab.org>; Government Relations <GovernmentRelations@nab.org>; Alexander, Marcellus <malexander@nab.org>; Media Relations <MediaRelationsGroup@nab.org>; Marketing & Communications Group (MARCOM) <Marketing&CommunicationsGroupMARCOM@nab.org>; Claudy, Lynn <LClaudy@nab.org>; Wiley, Douglas <DWiley@nab.org>
CC: Rehr, David K. <DRehr@nab.org>
Sent: Thu Jan 08 19:44:24 2009
Subject: Copps statement

The following can be attributed to FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps:

"More time can only help put in place the kind of consumer-focused outreach and assistance that should have been up-and-running months ago."

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:12 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: Kennard and Powell on DTV delay

-----Original Message-----

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 2:20 AM
To: 'kathy_zachem@comcast.com'
Subject: Re: Kennard and Powell on DTV delay

Thanks much. It's been quite an interesting day.

----- Original Message -----

From: Zachem, Kathy <Kathy_Zachem@Comcast.com>
To: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Fri Jan 09 00:11:18 2009
Subject: FW: Kennard and Powell on DTV delay

NY Times
January 9, 2009
Op-Contributors
Don't Touch That Dial
By WILLIAM KENNARD and MICHAEL POWELL

THE countdown clock is ticking on the digital television transition and it is becoming increasingly clear that the nation will not be ready. Analog television broadcasts are scheduled to stop on Feb. 17 and, after that, only digital signals are to be available. Then millions of Americans who rely on analog TV sets and antennas must start using converter boxes that will allow them to receive digital signals, or see only a black screen.

In 2005, Congress devised a program meant to ensure that this transition would be smooth. But with 40 days to go, it is now clear that we are heading for a train wreck - unless Congress delays the transition for a few months to allow more time to prepare.

People who subscribe to cable or satellite services or have a newer television with a digital tuner are not at risk of losing their programming. But as many as 19 million American households still rely solely on over-the-air analog television, and perhaps another 19 million use over-the-air in combination with cable or satellite. This population is disproportionately made up of poorer households, the elderly and members of minority groups.

To ease the burden of buying a converter box, Congress appropriated \$1.34 billion for 33.5 million \$40 coupons that can be redeemed at stores where the boxes are sold. (Boxes cost \$40 to \$80.) People who want these coupons must apply for them from the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and then it takes about four to six weeks for them to arrive in the mail. After 90 days, the coupons expire and no one is allowed to request a second one.

Demand for the coupons has been much greater than expected. More than 46 million requests have come in. And there aren't enough coupons to go around. Starting this week, all new requests are being put on a waiting list. No additional

coupons can be issued until those already issued expire.

Of course, it is already too late to apply for a coupon and receive it before Feb. 17.

And coupons or no coupons, there is a real danger that there will not be enough converter boxes on store shelves to meet demand. So far 18 million boxes have been purchased using coupons, and an estimated 11 million are in inventory. But total demand is estimated to be 33 million to 60 million units. So there could easily be a shortage of 4 million to 31 million.

The government is also unprepared to handle the volume of calls from baffled television viewers once the switch to digital occurs. Nearly 1.5 million calls are expected to come into a special Federal Communications Commission call center on each of the two days following the transition, but this center will be able to handle only about 350,000 calls a day.

Moreover, many people will need help hooking up their converter boxes and setting up their antennas. (Picking up the digital signal may require reorienting or moving an antenna, or buying a more powerful digital antenna.) The government should train community groups to give assistance to those who need it.

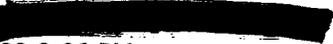
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If the transition to digital TV goes badly, it will inconvenience millions. There is no reason to rush toward a fiasco when we can just as well take the time to make sure the change happens smoothly.

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Subject: FW: Rockefeller, Obama Team Drafting DTV Date-Delay Bill

From: Michael Knipe [mailto:
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 8:06 PM
To: Rosemary Harold
Subject: B&C: Rockefeller, Obama Team Drafting DTV Date-Delay Bill

Time frame for a bill draft not revealed

By John Eggerton -- Broadcasting & Cable, 1/9/2009 1:28:00 PM

Senator Jay Rockefeller staffers Friday were already working with the Barack Obama transition team on legislation to delay the DTV transition date, according to an aide to the West Virginia Democrat. "Yes, we are working on a proposal and yes we are working with the transition team to draft something," said the aide.

That comes just one day **after that transition team asked Rockefeller**, the new chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, and other top Democrats to make the change, which requires congressional action. The aide did not have a time frame for when a bill draft might be circulated, but it will obviously have to be soon. The bill could also include freeing up money for DTV-to-analog converter box coupons by appropriating more money or waiving Antideficiency Act restrictions and effectively allowing the NTIA to send out more coupons without having to appropriate more money.

On the House side, Ed Markey, who has given up the chairmanship of the House Telecommunications & Internet Subcommittee, but remains a member of the committee and actively interested in speeding the transition, continues to work on a bill that would waive those Antideficiency Act restrictions.

Folks trying to get a \$40 government subsidy toward buying the boxes, which allow analog-over-the-air viewers to continue to receive TV after those signals change to digital, were put on a waiting list this week after the National Telecommunications & Information Administration ran up against a funding ceiling for sending out the coupons. A Hill source said a draft of that Markey bill could be circulated as early as Friday. The ranking Republican member on the committee, Joe Barton (R-TX), supports the ADA fix, though Barton made clear Thursday he does not support moving the DTV transition date.

The Markey bill may be added to something already moving. There are no plans for a hearing on the bill, said the source.

Raising the appropriation above the current \$1.34 billion ceiling would be another way to get coupons moving, but it would be tied to the economic stimulus package, which is probably on a February timetable and thus too late to fix the coupon backlog if the Feb. 17, 2009, transition date holds.

But there is increasing support on the Hill for changing the date, at least from Democrats including Rockefeller and Markey.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
January 6, 2009 Mary Diamond (202) 418-2388
Email: mary.diamond@fcc.gov

Edie Herman (202) 418-2035
Email: edie.herman@fcc.gov

FCC Announces Selection of 12 Grassroots Groups for DTV Outreach Valued at \$8.4 Million Focus is Reaching Seniors, People with Disabilities and Spanish-speaking households in Areas with Highest Over the Air Populations

Washington, DC - The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today announced it has selected 12 grassroots organizations and local agencies to help over the air viewers prepare for the digital transition. Today's selections are worth up to \$8.4 million and are the culmination of a full and open procurement process.

The Commission sought proposals to conduct outreach in all parts of the country, with a particular focus on the 82 markets with the highest over the air television populations. In particular, the FCC selected organizations dedicated to serving across the country populations most at risk in the digital transition including senior citizens, people with disabilities and Spanish-speaking households. Specifically, the FCC sought the assistance of local, regional and national organizations with converter box procurement and installation, establishment and staffing of local call centers, educating consumers about the transition and other local grass roots efforts.

Last September, as part of the Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2009, Congress appropriated \$20 million to the FCC to help fund its digital television outreach efforts. On September 15, the FCC initiated a broad public request for proposals to conduct community-based grassroots outreach work for the digital television transition.

Following federal procurement practices, the Commission conducted a full and open competition. The FCC made its requirements public and sent copies of the procurement documents to dozens of organizations, who could potentially assist over the air viewers in getting ready for the digital television transition. In addition, the Commission's Consumer Advisory Committee worked to ensure that all of the potentially impacted communities were aware of the request for proposals.

Below is a description of the vendors selected, the outreach the group will perform, and their award amounts.

Nationwide Plans

AARP is a national nonprofit service organization that will assist senior citizens across the entire United States with the DTV transition by using its existing sophisticated telephone service center to provide help to seniors with questions about the transition. The organization will train its existing help center staff to answer questions, provide information and telephone-based technical help to seniors who need assistance with setting up their converter boxes and antennas. AARP will publicize the availability of its help centers in its publications and newsletters targeted to seniors. Awarded : \$2,719,947.

Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD) is a national nonprofit service organization that will assist disabled citizens (specifically, deaf and hard of hearing Americans) by providing assistance and information on how to obtain and install DTV converter boxes, how to make use of DTV closed captioning services, and other related technical questions relating to the DTV transition. This organization will create a national telephone/TTY help center for deaf / hard of hearing consumers. CSD will also work with other national service organizations serving the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities to provide information about the DTV transition to these consumers. Awarded: \$1,117,441.

Hispanic Information and Telecommunication Network (HITN) will assist the Hispanic population nationwide with procuring and installing converter boxes, partner with local community organizations to establish walk-in help centers within the 20 U.S. television markets with the highest Hispanic population, and conduct outreach. It will also continue to provide assistance after the transition through March 31, 2009 and will promote the availability of converter box assistance on television and in newspapers.

HITN will provide free installations of converter boxes and emphasize need for Hispanics in U.S./Mexican border states to get converter boxes with analog pass-through so they can

continue to see both analog signals from Mexico and DTV from U.S. This will help people who may need to get new antennas, help those who haven't yet obtained converter boxes or who have trouble with installation. HITN has already conducted a field trial. Awarded : \$750,281.

State / Local / Regional Plans

PinTech Corporation is a private corporation that will offer consumer assistance to seniors, low income, disabled and non-English speaking and minority communities in a four-state region, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. This company will work with volunteers from state and local service organizations to assist consumers with information about the DTV conversion. In addition, this company will also provide a telephone DTV help center in each state to help citizens install their DTV converter boxes and will dispatch technicians to make on-site visits to assist customers whose problems cannot be solved over the phone. Awarded: \$ 2,839,783.

The Mayor's Commission on Technology is a local government agency serving Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It will help residents procure converter boxes by coordinating free installations via the city's 311 hotline. This organization will also create a local walk-in help centers and partner with local television stations to create local call-in centers. This organization will expand its DTV outreach efforts through e-mail blasts, town halls, and media interviews. It will provide assistance through March 13, 2009. It has already reached 25% of Philadelphia residents through its DTV outreach initiative. Awarded: \$166,244.

WXXI Public Broadcasting is a public broadcasting organization serving the greater Rochester, New York area, a rural region that includes many over-the-air television households. This organization will reach out to seniors, citizens in rural areas, disabled citizens, and minority communities in the area by conducting public educational outreach seminars about the DTV conversion and providing a toll-free telephone help center for consumers with additional questions. For elderly and disabled consumers who experience problems that cannot be solved over the phone, this organization will also send qualified professional technicians and the organization's own staff members in teams to make in-home visits to install converter boxes. Awarded: \$202,498.

VN TeamWork, Inc. is a local non-profit, community-based organization serving Southwest Houston and the Greater Houston area of Texas. In particular, it will target low-income, non-English speaking Asian Americans. It will help residents install converter boxes. This organization will also create a local walk-in help center and call-in center. In addition, this organization will publicize the DTV transition through radio announcements and the distribution of language-appropriate literature. It will continue providing assistance after the transition. Awarded: \$45,798.

Iowa Public Broadcasting Board is a state public broadcasting organization serving the state of Iowa. This organization will conduct a statewide education campaign to provide Iowans with information about the DTV conversion and how to prepare for it. In addition, this organization will also establish a telephone help center targeting seniors, citizens living in rural areas of the state, and low-income families and individuals in Iowa who need assistance making the transition to digital. The help center will answer consumer questions and provide technical troubleshooting advice over the phone, both before and in the days immediately following the February 17th transition date. Awarded: \$223,516.

Idaho Public Television is a state public broadcasting organization serving the state of Idaho. This organization will provide a statewide toll-free help line for citizens of Idaho (a rural state with a high percentage of viewers receiving television over the air) to answer consumer questions about the DTV transition. In addition, this organization's engineering staff will be available to assist consumers with technical troubleshooting issues by phone and email. Awarded: \$35,168.

Wisconsin Public Television is a state public broadcasting organization operated by a major state university system. This organization will provide statewide community

outreach events for citizens throughout Wisconsin such as informational Q&A presentations about the DTV transition and will work with state and local service organizations to reach out to citizens looking for help with installing and using their converter boxes. The organization will also provide a telephone help line to answer consumer questions about DTV and troubleshoot converter installation issues. This organization will specifically target hard to reach rural and minority populations (such as Hispanics and Hmong immigrant communities) in Wisconsin. Awarded: \$94,613.

Ohio State University / WOSU Public Media is a television organization serving the Columbus, Ohio television market, covering 55 counties in Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia. It will help residents procure converter boxes by coordinating free installations with local partner agencies. This organization will also create a local call-in and walk-in help center, and publicize the digital transition through live call-in shows on radio and television, as well as distributing printed materials through local libraries and partner organizations. It has already addressed 50 community groups about the transition and collected 2,300 coupons as of Oct. 2008 to donate to residents. Awarded: \$196,500.

Knox County CAC is a local non-profit agency serving Knox County, Tennessee, including Knoxville, Tennessee. It will help residents procure converter boxes by coordinating volunteers to accompany residents to stores or buying boxes on behalf of target groups, including seniors, people with disabilities, non-English speakers, and other minority groups. This organization will also create a local walk-in help center and call-in center. This organization will partner with local organizations including Meals on Wheels and Head Start, and the local Office on Aging to publicize the transition by distributing printed DTV materials. Awarded: \$36,241.

The total amount of the combined awards is \$8,428,031.

-FCC-

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:14 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: Q& A draft for Saturday

-----Original Message-----

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 7:22 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Q& A draft for Saturday

----- Original Message -----

From: Michael Knipe <[REDACTED]>
To: Rosemary Harold; haroldknipe@[REDACTED]
Sent: Thu Jan 08 19:42:08 2009
Subject: Q& A draft for Saturday

Q. Do you support a push-back in the DTV transition date?

The decision on any such change is Congress's to make. As of right now, the transition date remains Feb. 17, and the Commission's main task should be focusing on taking all steps possible to keep the momentum moving and making the transition as smooth as possible.

That said, we know that the transition is likely to be messy for those people who have not yet taken steps to get ready for the change. But there are things government can do, and time to do it, to help. Congress can, and I [hope] [expect] will, take quick action to lift constraints imposed by the Anti-Deficiency Act on existing funding for the DTV converter coupon program. Doing so will allow the coupon program to start pumping out more coupons to applicants quickly.

And the Commission, working in close cooperation with our industry partners under the leadership of NAB and NCTA, can improve upon our call center capabilities so that we can handle the volume of calls we anticipate at the time of the transition and the days afterward.

In any event, the transition is coming - and I hope that no one interprets recent discussions about a possible change of date as a justification for delaying action to make sure that they themselves are ready NOW. Those who have older, analog sets and still get their TV over the air through rooftop antennas or set-top "rabbit ears" are the ones most at risk now. They need to obtain a DTV converter box today if they cannot afford to buy a new digital TV set or subscribe to cable or satellite. Those who are not yet prepared and can afford to buy a converter box should do so immediately. For those who cannot, I hope that their family, friends and neighbors will step in to help - buying purchasing at least one box for them or contributing toward the cost of it.

Q1 [OLD]. Will the Feb. 17 DTV transition be just Y2K all over again?

I expect the DTV transition to be a bit messy, but between now and then, we have time - and should concentrate on - taking steps to make the transition work as seamlessly as we can. Congress can, and I expect will, take action to allow the DTV converter subsidy coupons to start flowing out again to applicants. The FCC and its industry partners are working together to resolve final technical issues and to try to provide timely, helpful assistance through call centers that should be beefed up by Feb. 17.

But the DTV transition also is a time for individual action. Most American households are prepared, but for the 7 percent or so that recent data suggests are not - about 8 million households total - the time for action is right now. These are the folks who rely on over-the-air signals, and they need to act today. The cheapest option is to buy a converter box, which typically sell at retail for somewhere between \$50-\$80 dollars. People don't need a government-subsidized coupons to buy a box right now, and those who can afford them shouldn't wait to take action. DTV - with its better pictures, sound quality and additional channels - is available right now, so there is no reason to wait to take advantage of better, free broadcast service.

Q2 [OLD]. Is the federal government doing enough to make the transition go smoothly? Did it wait too long to get started?

I'm not here to point fingers - or do a post-mortem on an event that has not yet occurred. What is needed right now is for those of us involved in making the transition happen, both government and industry, to keep up the momentum by working together to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Q3. [OLD] The DTV coupon program has hit a wall at a crucial time, with requests for new coupons being put on hold until previously issued ones expire. How big a problem is this? (As of mid-December, NTIA reported that an estimated 76% of OTA-reliant households had applied for coupons. Thus, with about two months before the analog cutoff, about 3 million OTA-reliant households hadn't acted yet, and several million more were either waiting for a coupon or had yet to redeem theirs.)

This is an issue, of course, but Congress can address it - and plainly, given recent statements this week from several members, there is bipartisan interest in doing so. One thing that Congress could do quickly is lift restraints imposed by the Anti-Deficiency Act, which has slowed NTIA's ability to work quickly with already authorized funding. And there remains the possibility of additional funding, which several interested entities - including, most prominently, the Obama transition team - have said they want to be part of the conversation as well.

Q4 [OLD]. What are the most important things the government learned from the pilot analog shut-off in Wilmington, N.C.? And what did the experience teach us about how well DTV signals propagate compared to analog ones? Will 95% of consumers be able to use the same antenna they've been using for analog TV, as the FCC has said in the past?

Q5 [OLD]. The FCC announced \$8.4 million in grants Monday to various grass-roots groups to help get people connected. Isn't it a bit late in the game to be doing that? And aside from the coupon program, how much money of the money available to assist the public with the DTV transition has been spent on efforts to physically help people set up their TVs?

My information about these contracts is limited - other commissioners have not been in the loop about the details, so my insights are limited to what appeared in the FCC press release. From that, it is difficult to tell how much funding is devoted to "physically" helping people set up their converter boxes or address antenna issues, but it appears that seven contracts - totaling about \$4.2 million - appear to contemplate sort of hands-on assistance in some, but not all, areas of the country. Not all of that \$4.2 million appears to be devoted to that kind of help, however.

So I do have some concerns that these efforts are "too little, too late." But for months during my own DTV outreach trips around the country, I have been urging local broadcasters in the markets I've visited not to wait for the federal government to completely step into this role - which is why I have encouraged them to do their own outreach in their own communities to solicit volunteers to help stations offer this kind of assistance to people who need it. Third-party groups like churches, colleges and high schools, and civic organizations all could provide such help.

Q6 [OLD]. What data are there on the return rates for converters? Has a secondary market emerged (on eBay, for example)? Any sense for how many were bought by people who didn't need them, but were confused by the messaging?

[Need to check e-Bay]

I've just checked e-Bay to see if I could find signs of a booming secondary market, because I haven't heard reports of such sales on any wide basis...

Q7 [OLD]. I've seen conflicting reports about retailers' stocks of converter boxes. What's your information on that?

I've heard some conflicting reports, but I note that CEA on Thursday came out with a statement that, according to its survey of retailers, boxes are available at major stores - including both electronics stores and more general venues like WalMart - and through online retailers. I suspect that there may be spot shortages in some places, however. That's another good reason why people who need the boxes to keep their older analog sets working should run, not walk, to their nearest favorite retailer to purchase a box today.

Q8 [OLD]. If I were a retailer, I'd prefer to err on the side of having too few boxes than having too many, given that there will be essentially no demand for them at some point in the not-too-distant future. Do you think there will be any demand for converters after the last coupon expires in July? And what, if anything, should the government do to

help retailers with this inventory dilemma? Buy back the unsold converters?

I'm not retail expert, but at this point I'm not convinced that demand will completely dry up in [July]. There still are many homes out there hooked up to cable or satellite TV for some sets but with the odd, rabbit-ears set in a guest room or the basement. Depending on the finances of those households - and the attention being paid to those sets by the homeowners - there may be some demand continuing through 2009. I certainly would expect it to drop off the further in time we get from the transition date, of course.

Q9 [OLD]. Back when the FCC set the framework for the digital transition, the hope of then-Chairman Reed Hundt was that broadcasters would make innovative use of their spectrum -- offering a variety of data, communications and video services. That doesn't seem to be the way things have played out, however. How well do you think the spectrum is being used? Did the feds make any fundamentally bad choices on the route to the analog cut-off? Or is this shaping up as an unalloyed success?

The digital transition was the right decision for several reasons. For broadcasters themselves, the big news now for the future appears to be the promise of mobile TV - and so digital technology's potential for more program channels, as well as better pictures and sound, is a major plus.

For spectrum policy generally, the transition also is a plus. We've been able to pack DTV channels into a smaller portion of the old TV band, thereby freeing up spectrum with terrific propagation characteristics for new wireless uses - both commercial uses and public safety ones. In addition, the greater sophistication of digital TV technology has helped to make possible the potential use of "white spaces" in the TV band for other wireless services - because the technology makes it financially feasible to develop the technology that should allow both uses to co-exist in a way that would not have been possible in the analog environment.

Q10 [OLD]. How should we define a broadcaster's public interest obligations in the digital era, when there are so many sources of media and information?

I'm glad that you've posed the question this way because it sets up the policy balance we will need to work through. At this point in time, I am extremely hesitant to impose additional obligations on broadcasters who already are struggling financially to keep up their current efforts. One of our local stations in Washington, for example, just announced that it will cancel its local newcasts on Saturday and Sunday mornings. That station isn't alone - falling revenue is having a negative impact on TV newsrooms across the country. I do not favor adding new government mandates now that could well result in the loss of further jobs in local news and public affairs programming.

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:14 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: B&C: Rockefeller, Obama Team Drafting DTV Date-Delay Bill

-----Original Message-----

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 8:53 PM
To: RMCSTAFF
Subject: Fw: B&C: Rockefeller, Obama Team Drafting DTV Date-Delay Bill

----- Original Message -----

From: Michael Knipe [REDACTED]
To: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Fri Jan 09 20:06:12 2009
Subject: B&C: Rockefeller, Obama Team Drafting DTV Date-Delay Bill

Time frame for a bill draft not revealed

By John Eggerton -- Broadcasting & Cable, 1/9/2009 1:28:00 PM

Senator Jay Rockefeller staffers Friday were already working with the Barack Obama transition team on legislation to delay the DTV transition date, according to an aide to the West Virginia Democrat.

"Yes, we are working on a proposal and yes we are working with the transition team to draft something," said the aide.

That comes just one day after that transition team asked Rockefeller <<http://www.broadcastingcable.com/CA6627776.html>>, the new chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, and other top Democrats to make the change, which requires congressional action.

The aide did not have a time frame for when a bill draft might be circulated, but it will obviously have to be soon.

The bill could also include freeing up money for DTV-to-analog converter box coupons by appropriating more money or waiving Antideficiency Act restrictions and effectively allowing the NTIA to send out more coupons without having to appropriate more money.

On the House side, Ed Markey, who has given up the chairmanship of the House Telecommunications & Internet Subcommittee, but remains a member of the committee and actively interested in speeding the transition, continues to work on a bill that would waive those Antideficiency Act restrictions.

Folks trying to get a \$40 government subsidy toward buying the boxes, which allow analog-over-the-air viewers to continue to receive TV after those signals change to digital, were put on a waiting list this week after the National Telecommunications & Information Administration ran up against a funding ceiling for sending out the coupons.

A Hill source said a draft of that Markey bill could be circulated as early as Friday. The ranking Republican member on the committee, Joe Barton (R-TX), supports the ADA fix, though Barton made clear Thursday he does not support moving the DTV transition date.

The Markey bill may be added to something already moving. There are no plans for a hearing on the bill, said the source.

Raising the appropriation above the current \$1.34 billion ceiling would be another way to get coupons moving, but it would be tied to the economic stimulus package, which is probably on a February timetable and thus too late to fix the coupon backlog if the Feb. 17, 2009, transition date holds.

But there is increasing support on the Hill for changing the date, at least from Democrats including Rockefeller and Markey.

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:15 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: B&C: Waiting List For DTV Coupons Continues To Grow

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From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 8:54 PM
To: RMCSTAFF
Subject: Fw: B&C: Waiting List For DTV Coupons Continues To Grow

----- Original Message -----

From: Michael Knipe [REDACTED]
To: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Fri Jan 09 20:08:38 2009
Subject: B&C: Waiting List For DTV Coupons Continues To Grow

Waiting List For DTV Coupons Continues To Grow

Clearing out backlog without swift congressional action unlikely.

By John Eggerton -- Broadcasting & Cable, 1/9/2009 2:24:00 PM

The waiting list for converter box coupons continues to grow, and the prospects for clearing out the backlog without swift congressional action appear slim to none.

According to the latest figures from the National Telecommunications & Information Administration, there are more than 1.35 million requests for DTV-to-analog converter-box coupons on its waiting list, with hundreds of thousands more coming in every day. NTIA began the waiting list last Sunday, when it hit its \$1.34 billion ceiling on funding for the program, which issues \$40 coupons toward the purchase of DTV-to-analog converter boxes that allow viewers of over-the-air analog TV signals to continue to receive a picture after those signals go digital on Feb. 17--or not, depending on current efforts to delay that date.

According to NTIA spokesman Todd Sedmak, 325,000 people on that list have been sent their coupons, which happens after a new batch of coupons expires and the money is freed up. But that 300,000-400,000 taken off the list is now just a fraction of number being added in the same time frame.

For example, the number of new requests on Monday alone, the first day of the freeze, was 465,000.

NTIA could get some help soon. Legislators are working on bills that would free up the money.

NTIA says that so far, a little over 19 million converter boxes have been purchased with the coupons, and it has enough to cover 33 million boxes. But with it taking four weeks or more to "apply [for], buy and try" converter boxes, as the NTIA likes to say, it has been advising consumers to apply for their coupons by the end of last month to insure plenty of time to be ready for the Feb. 17 transition date.

For millions, that now translates to, apply, wait and wait.

While Barack Obama has called for a delay in the DTV transition date, citing that backlog, Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez does not support that move. "We think the statutory date made sense, and its certainty has been a key element of efforts by the government and the private sector to raise awareness and drive preparedness," he said in a statement Friday. "That's why we supported it. We still do."

"We're working closely to ensure a smooth transition, and we'll let the next Administration comment on the President-elect's views," he added.

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Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:15 PM
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To: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Fri Jan 09 20:07:03 2009
Subject: B&C: Markey Has First Class Solution To Expediting Coupons

Markey Has First Class Solution To Expediting Coupons

Draft now circulating would allow NTIA to start procession requests that were put on hold

By John Eggerton -- Broadcasting & Cable, 1/9/2009 3:37:00 PM

A draft is now circulating of Massachusetts Rep. Ed Markey's bill to free up more DTV-to-analog converter box coupons.

As expected, the bill would make an accounting change to allow the National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA) to start processing requests it has put on hold due to lack of access to funds.

But it would also require those with freed-up requests to get their coupons via first class mail, at least up until Feb. 17, 2009, and beyond if that is deemed necessary. The bill does not signal Markey does not support at least exploring the possibility of moving that date, as Barack Obama has proposed, said an aide. "Just because the draft bill doesn't move the date doesn't mean that can't happen in a separate vehicle. This bill is designed to be short and to the point of dealing with current waiting-list issue. The decision on date switch can come later."

NTIA has been sending the coupons out via the more cost-efficient bulk mail designation. The difference between a 42-cent first-class stamp and a 25-cent standard may seem small, but multiplied by some 17 million envelopes—figuring for 33.5 million coupons the agency has money to issue if all of them are redeemed—the savings could be close to \$3 million. Markey's Energy & Commerce Committee called on the Post Office to expedite mailings last summer, but the Post Master General said it would be impossible to do so with coupons already mailed.

A spokesman for Markey said the change in the law would not change NTIA's relationship to IBM, which subcontracted the distribution, or with the Post Office. "The answer is that it is "pre-sorted" first class and that NTIA has the money currently to do this and would be paying IBM to perform this." He said, adding that NTIA and IBM are "already discussing how to do this."

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
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Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Purple

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To: RMCSTAFF
Subject: Fw: Multichannel News: DTV Transition Seen Adding 1.7 Million Pay-TV Subs

----- Original Message -----

From: Michael Knipe [REDACTED]
To: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Fri Jan 09 20:14:49 2009
Subject: Multichannel News: DTV Transition Seen Adding 1.7 Million Pay-TV Subs

CES 2009: DTV Transition Seen Adding 1.7 Million Pay-TV Subs

But Predicts About Two-Thirds of New Subscribers Will Be Basic Cable

By Todd Spangler -- Multichannel News, 1/9/2009 5:22:00 PM

Las Vegas—The elimination of analog TV broadcasts in the U.S.—currently set for Feb. 17, although the incoming Obama administration is hoping to push the date back—will give cable and satellite operators in the U.S. roughly 1.7 million new subscribers, according to a forecast by investment bank Barclays Capital.

Alan Miles, Barclays Capital vice president of equity research for media, Internet and telecommunications, said the digital TV transition will not be a significant business event for most pay-TV providers.

"For a lot of the major players, it's not a big deal," Miles said. He spoke on a panel discussion here at CES, "Digital TV Transition: Are We Ready?" moderated by Broadcasting & Cable senior editor Glen Dickson.

There's uncertainty about whether the digital TV cutover date will remain Feb. 17 or get pushed back. On Thursday, President-elect Barack Obama called for the DTV transition to be postponed <<http://www.multichannel.com/article/CA6627812.html>> , arguing that poor, rural and elderly residents will be unprepared for the cutoff of analog TV signals.

Delaying the DTV transition by a few months probably won't help consumers get ready any sooner than they would be on Feb. 17, said Emily Neilson, president and general manager of KLAS-TV, the CBS affiliate in Las Vegas.

"It's not that people haven't heard the message. It's that they haven't taken action," she said. "I think they still won't take action until the day before or at midnight."

Moving the Feb. 17 cutover also would disrupt Nielsen's ratings and, by extension, national TV advertising, Neilson said.

"Essentially there's no sweeps in February or March. Everything is going to be about May—that's what will be critical, that's what we'll sell on," she said. "If it gets delayed, then what's Nielsen going to do? That's the advertising industry's currency. That's a mess

for the buyers."

In terms of the upside for pay-TV operators, Miles acknowledged that the full effect of the DTV transition won't be known until after it happens. But he pointed out that those new subscribers are likely to sign up for nothing more than lifeline cable. "These [subs] are not worth a lot of money," he said.

Barclays estimates that cable will pick up two-thirds of the 1.7 million new subscribers, or around 1 million, with the rest going to satellite TV. About 17 million households currently rely on over-the-air TV in the U.S., according to the firm.

Miles also predicted that the DTV transition will produce a high number of consumer calls nationally: 1.2 million on the first day, and 2.5 million the first week. He extrapolated those figures from the results of the DTV cutover in Wilmington, N.C., in September.

The Wilmington market is small, its terrain is flat, so digital TV signals carry reasonably well, and only 7% of households rely on over-the-air broadcasts. "So Wilmington should have been a layup," he said. "In fact, there was a high number of calls."

About 1.2% of Wilmington households, 2,272 viewers, contacted the Federal Communications Commission's local call center <<http://www.multichannel.com/article/CA6600162.html>> with various issues after losing analog signals.

Neilson said KLAS conducted a test Dec. 17 test during which it temporarily shut off analog broadcasts throughout the day. The station received about 2,000 calls from viewers over 48 hours.

"We strongly believe there needs to be some technical help after the transition," Neilson said. "Whose responsibility is it? Is it the television station's? The company that sold you the antenna?"

The AARP has received a \$2.5 million contract from the FCC to establish a call center to help consumers through the transition. "We feel people are going to be befuddled even if they do get their converter set up," said Lynn Mento, AARP's senior vice president of membership.

Americans 50 and older are getting ready for the DTV transition "in line with the rest of the population," Mento said. AARP estimates that 20% of people in that age group who haven't already moved to digital TV will not do so even after the transition, either because TV is not important enough or because they can't afford it.

Brian Dietz, National Cable & Telecommunications Association vice president of communications, said on the panel that the trade group is having discussions with the National Association of Broadcasters and other groups about establishing a national call center to field consumer inquiries starting a few days before the transition date.

But, Dietz said, "we're not sure where that will go if the date is changed."

Another huge issue that looms, according to Neilson, is exactly how big the "cliff effect" will be. The term refers to the total loss of a digital TV signal in areas beyond the reach of transmitters <<http://www.broadcastingcable.com/article/CA6595785.html>> . She said 12% of KLAS viewers receive the station's over-the-air signal.

"We use over-the-air for our live crews, and we have trouble getting reception," Neilson said. "We're quite concerned about it. It's not going to be as easy as plugging in a converter box, and all is well."

Miles said his firm conducted "man-on-the-street" interviews in Wilmington. In addition to irritation and confusion about the change, people voiced concerns about installing digital-to-analog converters obtained through the government's \$40 coupon program.

"One thing we heard was this paranoia, Big Brother thing: 'What is the government doing with that box in my house?'" Miles said.

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:15 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: B&C: Police, Fire Chiefs Seek Carve-Out From Any DTV-Delay Bill

-----Original Message-----

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 8:54 PM
To: RMCSTAFF
Subject: Fw: B&C: Police, Fire Chiefs Seek Carve-Out From Any DTV-Delay Bill

----- Original Message -----

From: Michael Knipe [REDACTED]
To: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Fri Jan 09 20:10:39 2009
Subject: B&C: Police, Fire Chiefs Seek Carve-Out From Any DTV-Delay Bill

Police, Fire Chiefs Seek Carve-Out From Any DTV-Delay Bill

Consumers Union "enthusiastically endorses that kind of carve-out for public safety"

By John Eggerton -- Broadcasting & Cable, 1/9/2009 3:41:00 PM

Police chiefs, fire chiefs and other first responders want a carve-out from any DTV-delaying bill for analog TV channels being turned over to public safety uses. In a letter to the transition team Friday, the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials and the police and fire chief associations "strongly recommended" that any extension of the Feb. 17 date "exclude television channels occupying spectrum that will be used for public safety communications."

The FCC auctioned the 700 Mhz band--UHF channels between 52 and 69--for advanced wireless services, with a carve-out of some channels for public safety.

"All fifty states have already received licenses to operate on portions of the new spectrum, and many agencies across the nation have already acquired radios capable of operating in the 700 MHz band," they said.

The Obama transition team had not returned a call for comment at press time. But Consumers Union, which first asked Congress to move the date, would "enthusiastically endorse that kind of carve-out for public safety," according to Communications Director David Butler.

The Obama transition team this week asked the FCC to delay the date citing a general lack of funding for DTV education and a specific backlog of DTV-to-analog converter box coupon requests.

Regulatory Source Associates, LLC

Anna-Maria Kovacs, Ph.D., CFA
617-661-4666
akovacs@regulatorysource.com

Please see our required disclosures on page 2.

January 27, 2009

TELECOM REGULATORY NOTE

Senate votes DTV-delay to June 12th House vote expected today

- **The Senate voted unanimously yesterday to delay the DTV transition to June 12th. The House is expected to vote the bill today.**
- **This legislation will:**
 - **Delay the transition date to June 12th.**
 - **Allow over-the-air stations to make the switch as soon as they are ready, without having to wait till June 12th.**
 - **Allow public safety to use vacated spectrum, where a station chooses to vacate before June 12th.**
 - **Allow consumers with expired coupons to apply for replacements.**
- **Senators Rockefeller and Hutchison, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, worked out a compromise last week that addressed the issues that concerned many Republican members of Congress. Key to passage of this bill was an assurance that this is a one-time delay.**
- **Separately, the House stimulus bill would allocate an additional \$650 million to the DTV transition, by funding more converter-box coupons, and consumer outreach and education.**

What this means to investors:

We now expect the DTV transition to occur fully on June 12th, but some areas will experience it sooner. With additional converter-box funding out of the stimulus bill, and four extra months for a concerted consumer-education campaign, chances for a

smooth transition are improved. For the duration, the DTV transition will be the major focus for the work of both the FCC and NTIA.

The DTV-transition delay obviously pushes back the date when wireless carriers can take over the spectrum they acquired, but not to an intolerable point.

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Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:40 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: A new DTV spoof on the potential delay

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 10:54 AM
To: 'Burgett, John'; 'Kirby, Kathleen'; 'Bayes, James'; 'Stansbury, Todd'; 'Fiorini, John'; 'Bodorff, Richard'
Subject: FW: A new DTV spoof on the potential delay

<http://www.hulu.com/watch/54019/talkshow-with-spike-feresten-tv-psa-update>

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:38 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: Multichannel News: DTV House Vote To Come Wednesday: Hoyer

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2009 7:51 PM
To: RMCDSTAFF
Subject: Multichannel News: DTV House Vote To Come Wednesday: Hoyer

DTV House Vote To Come Wednesday: Hoyer

Likely Followed By Senate Re-Vote: Hill Source

Mike Reynolds -- Multichannel News, 1/27/2009 4:28:50 PM MT

According to a spokesperson for House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), a vote to delay the DTV transition date probably will not come until Wednesday. And then it will likely have to go back to the Senate for a re-vote on some small changes, according to a Hill source.

The Senate version of a bill to change the date from Feb. 17 to June 12 passed Monday. That bill is still expected to be debated in the House "on suspension" Tuesday night, said Hoyer spokeswoman Katie Grant, which means limited debate, no amendments, and a two-thirds majority rather than a simple majority is required for passage. Grant said she expects the bill will pass.

But that debate probably won't come until 8 or 9 p.m., after general debate on the economic stimulus package. The Senate re-vote is over some language "tweaks," as the House source put it, related to technical fixes in budget language and a change in the public safety language.

The \$64,000 question is whether Senate Republicans agree those are only tweaks, which may be determined by how many Republicans wind up voting for the House version.

If the tweaks are only that, the Senate could substitute the House bill for its version, approve it, and it would be off to the president's desk for signing. Since he proposed moving the date, that is a pretty safe bet.

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:36 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: Senate votes DTV-delay to June 12th--House vote expected today
Importance: High
Attachments: DTV 012709.pdf

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2009 8:39 AM
To: 'Knipe, Michael'
Subject: FW: Senate votes DTV-delay to June 12th--House vote expected today
Importance: High

FYI

From: Anna-Maria Kovacs [mailto:amkovacs@regulatorysourcenes.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2009 2:40 AM
To: amkovacs@regulatorysourcenes.com
Subject: Senate votes DTV-delay to June 12th--House vote expected today
Importance: High

TELECOM REGULATORY NOTE

**Senate votes DTV-delay to June 12th
House vote expected today**

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passage of this bill was an assurance that this is a one-time delay.

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Please see the attached note for the full discussion and for our required disclosures.

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President
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Cambridge MA 02140
akovacs@regulatorysource.com
617-661-4666

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:41 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: A new DTV spoof on the potential delay

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:43 PM
To: 'Bayes, James'
Subject: RE: A new DTV spoof on the potential delay

That's what I've heard.

From: Bayes, James [mailto:JBayes@wileyrein.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:42 PM
To: Rosemary Harold
Subject: RE: A new DTV spoof on the potential delay

I took care of it, Ms. Harold. It was blocked by our helpful tech team the first time I tried it, but I got it through the browser. IT has to get up pretty early in the morning to put anything over on me.

From: Rosemary Harold [mailto:Rosemary.Harold@fcc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:35 PM
To: Burgett, John; Kirby, Kathleen; Bayes, James; Stansbury, Todd; Fiorini, John; Bodorff, Richard
Subject: RE: A new DTV spoof on the potential delay

Someone take pity on the technologically impaired Mr. Bayes by showing him the video on your computer.

From: Burgett, John [mailto:JBurgett@wileyrein.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:15 PM
To: Rosemary Harold; Kirby, Kathleen; Bayes, James; Stansbury, Todd; Fiorini, John; Bodorff, Richard
Subject: RE: A new DTV spoof on the potential delay

This is hysterical!

From: Rosemary Harold [mailto:Rosemary.Harold@fcc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 10:54 AM
To: Burgett, John; Kirby, Kathleen; Bayes, James; Stansbury, Todd; Fiorini, John; Bodorff, Richard
Subject: FW: A new DTV spoof on the potential delay

<http://www.hulu.com/watch/54019/talkshow-with-spike-feresten-tv-psa-update>

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Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:42 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: A new DTV spoof on the potential delay

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 6:22 PM
To: 'HAROLD, Chris Patric HS'; [REDACTED]; 'Lisa Berg'; 'Nancy Johnson'; 'Jeff Johnson'
Subject: FW: A new DTV spoof on the potential delay

A little insight on the pain in my work life right now:

<http://www.hulu.com/watch/54019/talkshow-with-spike-feresten-tv-psa-update>

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:50 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: WaPo story

From: Johnson, Fawn [mailto:Fawn.Johnson@dowjones.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2009 1:37 PM
To: Rosemary Harold
Subject: WaPo story

Congress Urged To Postpone Nation's Switch To Digital TV
WP00000020090108e51800002
Financial
Kim Hart
Washington Post Staff Writer
600 Words
8 January 2009
The Washington Post
The Washington Post - Print and Online
CTGWP
FINAL
D01
English
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Consumers Union is urging Congress to delay the nation's transition to digital television, saying the program to help TV viewers prepare for the switch next month has been underfunded and poorly implemented.

In a letter sent last night to President Bush, President-elect Barack Obama, House Commerce Committee Chairman Henry A. Waxman (D-Calif.) and Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John D. Rockefeller (D-W.Va.), the consumer advocacy group said Congress should push back the transition "until a plan is in place to minimize the number of consumers who will lose TV signals."

The request comes two days after the federal government said it has run out of money to provide coupons to help offset the cost of converter boxes. Analog television sets that rely on "rabbit ear" or rooftop antennas to receive broadcasts will need a converter box to get a picture after Feb. 17, when all full-powered television stations will stop airing analog signals and move to digital-only broadcasts.

Lawmakers are looking for ways to make sure consumers who need coupons get them in time. "But with the date looming, moving the date back certainly warrants further discussion and may be a wise choice," said Daniel Reilly, a spokesman for Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), chairman of the House subcommittee on telecommunications and the Internet.

As of Sunday, consumers requesting \$40 vouchers to help purchase a converter box are being placed on a waiting list, and federal officials warn that TV watchers may not receive the coupons in time for the switch.

A coupon is not needed to purchase a converter box. But with boxes costing \$50 to \$80 in retail stores, Congress allocated \$1.34 billion to provide coupons to help offset the price. Consumers who have a newer digital television or who subscribe to cable or satellite service will not lose programming.

The government-mandated switch to digital television will free up wireless airwaves for public safety agencies and other advanced mobile services. An auction of those analog airwaves raised \$19 billion for the government last year. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration, an arm of the Commerce Department, was charged with distributing the converter box coupons, which expire after 90 days. But due to the budget shortfall, the NTIA cannot mail out more coupons until already-issued vouchers expire.

"Millions of consumers could now be forced to spend their own money to navigate this federally mandated transition," the letter says. "This economic climate is not the right time to ask consumers to dig deeper into their own pockets to pay for the miscalculation by the federal government. "

Obama's transition team said yesterday that it has not weighed in on whether it would support a delay. Members of Congress are trying to find additional funds for the coupon program and may consider waiving a rule to allow NTIA to issue more coupons without waiting for others to expire.

On Tuesday, the Federal Communications Commission announced \$8.4 million in grants to 12 community-based organizations. The grants are intended to reach out to consumers who are most at risk of losing television signals -- senior citizens, people with disabilities, low-income and non-English-speaking households.

But Consumers Union said it is concerned there is not enough time left to reach all at-risk consumers. The group also questioned the ability of the FCC's call centers to handle a flood of calls from confused television-watchers on Feb. 17.

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Dow Jones Newswires
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW
Suite 800
202 862-9263 (office)
202 309-7040 (cell)
fawn.johnson@dowjones.com

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:50 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: my story from last night

From: Johnson, Fawn [mailto:Fawn.Johnson@dowjones.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2009 1:37 PM
To: Rosemary Harold
Subject: my story from last night

Consumers union letter at bottom

07 Jan 2009 16:31 EST **UPDATE: Quick Action Seen In Congress For Digital TV Coupons**

(Adds letter to Capitol Hill from Consumers Union asking for a delay in the digital TV transition in the 17th and 18th paragraphs.)

By Fawn Johnson
Of DOW JONES NEWSWIRES

WASHINGTON -(Dow Jones)- Congress is expected to act quickly to allow the Commerce Department to begin distributing coupons for digital television converter boxes after the agency was forced to create a waiting list for applicants earlier this week.

Even without congressional action, the agency will be able to send out some 350,000 coupons at the end of this week as old coupons expire, National Telecommunications and Information Administration Acting Assistant Secretary Meredith Attwell Baker told Dow Jones Newswires.

Over the next several months, money for six million new coupons could be freed from unused coupons, Baker said. The coupons expire 90 days after they are mailed.

On Feb. 17, all TV stations by law must stop broadcasting in analog format, which will mean that people who rely on over-the-air TV won't receive signals unless they buy a digital television or converter box or subscribe to a cable or satellite TV service.

The digital TV transition hit a snag earlier this week when the U.S. Commerce Department was forced to set up the waiting list for households applying for \$40 coupons. It has already sent out enough coupons to obligate the full \$1.34 billion allotted for the program.

As of Tuesday, 948,000 coupons are waiting to be sent out once funds are freed up, according to Baker. Those pending coupons represent applications from about 500,000 households because most people ask for two.

"We will clear the waiting list as soon as we can," Baker said.

To speed the process, lawmakers want to waive a federal law dictating how the government spends money to allow Commerce to send out coupons obligating more than \$1.34 billion.

If the coupon program needs additional funds to cover demand, a separate bill could pass the Congress after President-elect Barack Obama takes the oath of office, according to people familiar with the discussions.

Currently, only about 60% of the converter box coupons sent to consumers are actually being redeemed at retail stores.

Consumer and civil rights advocates are urging households that haven't yet applied for the converter box coupons to get on the Commerce Department's waiting list.

Consumers Union Policy Analyst Joel Kelsey cautioned, however, that anyone applying for a coupon now likely won't get it until after Feb. 17.

"You may want to have one converter box you buy without a coupon or consider your other options," Baker advised.

Kelsey said lawmakers should consider delaying the Feb. 17 digital transition because of the coupon waiting list and other issues.

The digital switch is taking place just weeks after Obama takes up residence in the White House and a new Congress has settled in. A delay in the switch "certainly shouldn't be off the table," Kelsey said.

Baker disagreed. "The world is watching this transition," she said. "We don't want consumers to be confused. ...Certainty (of the date) has driven people to action."

Consumers Union sent a letter to Capitol Hill Wednesday urging lawmakers to delay the Feb. 17 digital switch date, although it's not clear how much traction such an idea will have among lawmakers.

"With Feb. 17 only 40 days away, we are concerned that millions of rural, low-income and elderly citizens across the country will be left with blank television screens," Consumers Union's letter said, citing the waiting list for converter box coupons and concerns that the Federal Communications Commissions' call center won't be adequately staffed.

The FCC, the Commerce Department, broadcasters and countless community organizations are trying to spread the word to viewers to prepare for the transition so they don't lose TV access.

-By **Fawn** Johnson, Dow Jones Newswires; 202-862-9263; fawn.johnson@dowjones.com

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Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:49 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: CEA Statement on DTV transition - to be released shortly

-----Original Message-----

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2009 10:57 AM
To: RMCSTAFF
Subject: Fw: CEA Statement on DTV transition - to be released shortly

FYI

----- Original Message -----

From: Jamie Hedlund <jhedlund@ce.org>
To: Rosemary Harold
Cc: Michael Petricone <mpetricone@CE.org>
Sent: Thu Jan 08 10:41:02 2009
Subject: CEA Statement on DTV transition - to be released shortly

Rosemary,

Per our conversation last night. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

Best,
Jamie

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Megan Pollock or Meghan Henning
tel: 703-907-7668 tel: 703-907-7654
e-mail: mpollock@CE.org e-mail: mhenning@CE.org
www.CE.org

AMPLE STOCK OF CONVERTER BOXES, UNPRECEDENTED EDUCATION EFFORTS KEEP DTV TRANSITION ON SCHEDULE

187 Certified Converter Boxes and 34,417 Retail Outlets Ensure a Successful Transition

Arlington, Va., January 8, 2009 – With less than six weeks remaining before the transition to digital television (DTV) is completed, the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA)[®] today announced that manufacturers and retailers have ensured ample and widespread DTV converter box availability. As of today, more than thirty-four thousand retail outlets are offering coupon-eligible converter boxes to consumers, including at least seven major nationwide retailers and 35 online retailers.

An informal survey conducted by CEA on January 7, 2009, found in-stock converter boxes at nationwide retail outlets including major consumer electronics retailers Best Buy, Circuit City and Radio Shack as well as Sears, Target, Wal-Mart and Kmart. In addition to in-store availability of converter boxes, many of these outlets offer online and phone sales of converter boxes. Online-only retailers, including Amazon.com, are stocked with multiple brands of converter boxes and many offer free shipping to consumers. The broadcast, cable, consumer electronics, and other industries, working in concert through the DTV Transition Coalition, have devoted hundreds of millions of dollars to an unprecedented and successful nationwide education campaign to inform all Americans about the February 17 transition date. "Consumer awareness of the DTV transition is well over 90 percent. The majority of Americans now own a digital television and even more subscribe to multichannel video service. Converter boxes are in stock and available from

retail outlets within reach of all Americans, and manufacturers and retailers will meet consumer demand," said Gary Shapiro, president and CEO, CEA. "The DTV transition is on schedule and will be successful."

Although NTIA recently slowed distribution of DTV converter box coupons because of federal accounting rules, coupons remain in ample supply. Specifically, as of January 7, 2009, only about nineteen million coupons had been redeemed out of the more than thirty-three million coupons available under the program.

"I encourage Congress and the new Administration to continue down the successful path we are currently traveling," said Shapiro. "Focus should be on ensuring that NTIA can quickly distribute coupons that are currently held up by bureaucratic accounting rules. After years of coordinated work, billions of dollars of investment, and unprecedented consumer education, an eleventh hour change to the DTV transition would create enormous uncertainty for consumers." CEA has urged Congress to waive the Anti-Deficiency Act requirements with respect to the DTV coupon program, which would allow NTIA to distribute more coupons without additional appropriations.

Reacting to published accounts of a call for consideration of a change to the DTV transition date, Shapiro said: "The facts clearly support maintaining the hard date of February 17. Any delay to the transition date would cause massive confusion among the more than 90 percent of Americans who have already taken the necessary steps to prepare. Equally important, a delay could further slow first responders' access to valuable spectrum for emergency communications. It would also delay consumer access to innovative wireless broadband spectrum, further postponing America's return as global leader for broadband availability."

About CEA:

The Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) is the preeminent trade association promoting growth in the \$172 billion U.S. consumer electronics industry. More than 2,200 companies enjoy the benefits of CEA membership, including legislative advocacy, market research, technical training and education, industry promotion and the fostering of business and strategic relationships. CEA also sponsors and manages the International CES - Where Entertainment, Technology and Business Converge. All profits from CES are reinvested into CEA's industry services. Find CEA online at www.CE.org.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2009 International CES
January 8-11, 2009, Las Vegas, NV
- Digital Music Forum East
February 24-25, 2009, New York, NY
- Greener Gadgets Conference
February 27, 2009, New York, NY
- EHX Spring 2009
March 10-14, 2009, Orlando, FL
- Digital Patriots Dinner
April 22, 2009, Washington, DC
- CEA Washington Forum
April 22-23, 2009, Washington, DC

- LA Games Conference
April 28-29, 2009, Hollywood, CA
- Digital Downtown
June 10-12, 2009, New York, NY
- 13th Annual CEO Summit
June 17-20, 2009, Dana Point, CA
- 2009 SINOCES
July 9-12, Qingdao, China
- 2009 CEA Industry Forum
October 18-21, 2009, Phoenix, AZ
- CES New York Press Preview featuring CES Unveiled @ NY

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From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:49 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
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Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2009 10:41 AM
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Cc: Michael Petricone
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Jamie

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Megan Pollock or Meghan Henning
tel: 703-907-7668 tel: 703-907-7654
e-mail: mpollock@CE.org e-mail: mhenning@CE.org
www.CE.org

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Arlington, Va., January 8, 2009 – With less than six weeks remaining before the transition to digital television (DTV) is completed, the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA)® today announced that manufacturers and retailers have ensured ample and widespread DTV converter box availability. As of today, more than thirty-four thousand retail outlets are offering coupon-eligible converter boxes to consumers, including at least seven major nationwide retailers and 35 online retailers.

An informal survey conducted by CEA on January 7, 2009, found in-stock converter boxes at nationwide retail outlets including major consumer electronics retailers Best Buy, Circuit City and Radio Shack as well as Sears, Target, Wal-Mart and Kmart. In addition to in-store availability of converter boxes, many of these outlets offer online and phone sales of converter boxes. Online-only retailers, including Amazon.com, are stocked with multiple brands of converter boxes and many offer free shipping to consumers.

The broadcast, cable, consumer electronics, and other industries, working in concert through the DTV Transition Coalition, have devoted hundreds of millions of dollars to an unprecedented and successful nationwide education campaign to inform all Americans about the February 17 transition date. “Consumer awareness of the DTV transition is well over 90 percent. The majority of Americans now own a digital television and even more subscribe to multichannel video service. Converter boxes are in stock and available from retail outlets within reach of all Americans, and manufacturers and retailers will meet consumer demand,” said Gary Shapiro, president and CEO, CEA. “The DTV transition is on schedule and will be successful.”

Although NTIA recently slowed distribution of DTV converter box coupons because of federal accounting rules, coupons remain in ample supply. Specifically, as of January 7, 2009, only about nineteen million coupons had been redeemed out of the more than thirty-three million coupons available under the program.

3/9/2009.

"I encourage Congress and the new Administration to continue down the successful path we are currently traveling," said Shapiro. "Focus should be on ensuring that NTIA can quickly distribute coupons that are currently held up by bureaucratic accounting rules. After years of coordinated work, billions of dollars of investment, and unprecedented consumer education, an eleventh hour change to the DTV transition would create enormous uncertainty for consumers." CEA has urged Congress to waive the Anti-Deficiency Act requirements with respect to the DTV coupon program, which would allow NTIA to distribute more coupons without additional appropriations.

Reacting to published accounts of a call for consideration of a change to the DTV transition date, Shapiro said: "The facts clearly support maintaining the hard date of February 17. Any delay to the transition date would cause massive confusion among the more than 90 percent of Americans who have already taken the necessary steps to prepare. Equally important, a delay could further slow first responders' access to valuable spectrum for emergency communications. It would also delay consumer access to innovative wireless broadband spectrum, further postponing America's return as global leader for broadband availability."

About CEA:

The Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) is the preeminent trade association promoting growth in the \$172 billion U.S. consumer electronics industry. More than 2,200 companies enjoy the benefits of CEA membership, including legislative advocacy, market research, technical training and education, industry promotion and the fostering of business and strategic relationships. CEA also sponsors and manages the International CES – Where Entertainment, Technology and Business Converge. All profits from CES are reinvested into CEA's industry services. Find CEA online at www.CE.org.

Follow the 2009 International CES on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/2009CES> and visit the International CES Page on Facebook.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2009 International CES
January 8-11, 2009, Las Vegas, NV
- Digital Music Forum East
February 24-25, 2009, New York, NY
- Greener Gadgets Conference
February 27, 2009, New York, NY
- EHX Spring 2009
March 10-14, 2009, Orlando, FL
- Digital Patriots Dinner
April 22, 2009, Washington, DC
- CEA Washington Forum
April 22-23, 2009, Washington, DC

- LA Games Conference
April 28-29, 2009, Hollywood, CA
- Digital Downtown
June 10-12, 2009, New York, NY
- 13th Annual CEO Summit
June 17-20, 2009, Dana Point, CA
- 2009 SINO CES
July 9-12, Qingdao, China
- 2009 CEA Industry Forum
October 18-21, 2009, Phoenix, AZ
- CES New York Press Preview featuring CES Unveiled @ NY
November 10, 2009, New York, NY

###

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:50 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: NAB Statement on DTV Hard Date Debate

From: Bobeck, Ann [mailto:ABobeck@nab.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2009 2:41 PM
To: Rosemary Harold
Subject: NAB Statement on DTV Hard Date Debate

**NEWS****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 8, 2009

CONTACT

Kristopher Jones
202-429-5486

NAB STATEMENT ON DTV HARD DATE DEBATE

WASHINGTON, DC -- The National Association of Broadcasters released a statement today regarding recent discussions on whether to alter the digital television transition hard date, originally set by Congress as February 17, 2009.

Commenting on the matter, NAB Executive Vice President Dennis Wharton said:

"The certainty created when Congress set the February 17 hard date for the DTV transition was a positive catalyst for broadcasters, manufacturers, retailers, public safety groups, consumers and the government.

"NAB and broadcasters nationwide are committed to being ready by February 17 and strongly support a solution that would enable the government to continue making converter box coupons available to consumers who rely on free television. We continue to urge Congress to act swiftly to ensure coupons are made available for those who need them.

"Broadcasters have been and will continue to be committed to doing everything in our power to make this transition work to ensure that viewers continue to have access to the important news and information that free, local television provides. The debate and discussion over the DTV transition only highlights the enduring value and popularity of free and local television."

About NAB

The National Association of Broadcasters is the premier advocacy association for America's

3/9/2009

broadcasters. As the voice of more than 8,300 radio and television stations, NAB advances their interests in legislative, regulatory and public affairs. Through advocacy, education and innovation, NAB enables broadcasters to best serve their communities, strengthen their businesses and seize new opportunities in the digital age. Learn more at www.nab.org.

###

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Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:50 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: Breaking News: Obama Asks Congress to Delay DTV Transition

From: Mago, Jane [mailto:JMago@nab.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2009 2:45 PM
To: Rosemary Harold
Subject: Fw: Breaking News: Obama Asks Congress to Delay DTV Transition

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

-----Original Message-----

From: Wharton, Dennis <DWharton@nab.org>
To: Government Relations <GovernmentRelations@nab.org>; Legal & Regulatory Affairs <Legal&RegulatoryAffairs@nab.org>; Marketing & Communications Group (MARCOM) <Marketing&CommunicationsGroupMARCOM@nab.org>; Media Relations <MediaRelationsGroup@nab.org>; Science & Technology <Science&Technology@nab.org>
CC: Rehr, David K. <DRehr@nab.org>; Legal & Regulatory Affairs <Legal&RegulatoryAffairs@nab.org>
Sent: Thu Jan 08 14:37:11 2009
Subject: Fw: Breaking News: Obama Asks Congress to Delay DTV Transition

-----Original Message-----

From: Broadcasting and Cable Magazine <BroadcastingandCable@email.BroadcastingCable.com>
To: Wharton, Dennis <DWharton@nab.org>
Sent: Thu Jan 08 14:33:02 2009
Subject: Breaking News: Obama Asks Congress to Delay DTV Transition

<http://www.broadcastingcable.com/contents/images/BC_BReakingNews_header.gif>

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Obama Asks Congress to Delay DTV Transition

Citing problems with the DTV-to-analog converter box program and "inadequate funding" of government DTV education programs, John Podesta, co-chair of the Obama-Biden transition team, requested that "the cut-off date for analog signals should be reconsidered and extended."

For More... <<http://email.BroadcastingCable.com/cgi-bin2/DM/y/hBCaC0Hwauo0Olt0DoxT0EU>>

3/9/2009

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To view our privacy policy, visit <http://www.broadcastingcable.com/privacy>.

Editorial

Joel Topcik

E-mail: joel.topcik@reedbusiness.com

Phone: 1-646-746-6882

Advertising

RB Interactive

1-888-7RBI WEB

Onlineads@reedbusiness.com <<mailto:Onlineads@reedbusiness.com>>

www.rbinteractive.com <<http://www.rbinteractive.com>>

Customer Service

Phone: 800-554-5729

Fax: 712-733-8019

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<<http://email.BroadcastingCable.com/cgi-bin2/flosensing?y=BCaC0Hwauo00lt0BG>>

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:51 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: podesta

Attachments: 09-01-08podesta delay.pdf



09-01-08podesta
delay.pdf (71 ...)

-----Original Message-----

From: Gigi Sohn [mailto:gbsohn@publicknowledge.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2009 3:10 PM
To: Rosemary Harold
Subject: Fw: podesta

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

-----Original Message-----

From: Art Brodsky <abrodsky@publicknowledge.org>

Date: Thu, 08 Jan 2009 14:54:14
To: Gigi Sohn <gbsohn@publicknowledge.org>
Subject: podesta

Here you go.

--
Art

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:51 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: Obama asks Congress to Delay DTV Transition
Attachments: Podesta DTV Letter[1].pdf

From: Zachem, Kathy [mailto:Kathy_Zachem@Comcast.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2009 3:09 PM
To: Rosemary Harold
Subject: Obama asks Congress to Delay DTV Transition

Just in case you did not have it



THE OFFICE
of the
**PRESIDENT
ELECT**

January 8, 2009

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV, Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
United States Senate

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
United States Senate

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Rockefeller, Senator Hutchison, Chairman Waxman, and Congressman Barton:

Only 28 days after the Inauguration, Americans will awake to find their analog televisions no longer receive the over-the-air signals they have always relied upon for both entertainment and emergency notification. This is the result of a decision made by Congress in 2005 and implemented by the outgoing administration.

During the Transition, we have discovered major difficulties in the preparation for the February 17 conversion from analog to digital broadcasting. These weaknesses mean major problems for consumers. Because Congress mandated the conversion date and other components of the switch, congressional action is the first step toward addressing the problems awaiting Americans.

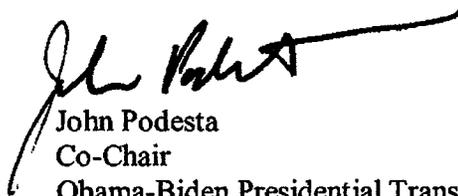
The program designed to provide consumers with a coupon to defray the cost of the digital-to-analog converter necessary for analog TVs to continue to work has run out of funds. As of today, over 1 million coupon requests sit on a wait list, unable to be fulfilled by the Department of Commerce. By early February, projections suggest that number could climb to over 5 million unhonored requests, increasing by hundreds of thousands every day. A waiver of the Anti-Deficiency Act is necessary to keep coupons going to consumers on a short-term basis under the existing authorization.

Even with the aforementioned waiver, however, the funds provided to support the conversion are woefully inadequate. Coupon demand appears headed to a level that will exceed that authorized by Congress. In addition, the government's programs to assist consumers through the upheaval of the conversion are inadequately funded. There is insufficient support for the problems consumers (particularly low income, rural and elderly Americans) will experience as a result of the analog signal cutoff. A part of the Economic Recovery Package contains resources to address these issues.

All of the above leads to a conclusion that the February 17 cutoff date for analog signals should be reconsidered and extended. With coupons unavailable, support and education insufficient, and the most vulnerable Americans exposed, I urge you to consider a change to the legislatively-mandated analog cutoff date.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to working with you in any way you find helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Podesta", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Podesta
Co-Chair
Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Team

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 2:43 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: B&C: Obama asks Congress to Delay DTV Transition

From: Tramont, Bryan [mailto:BTramont@wbklaw.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2009 2:43 PM
To: Rosemary Harold
Subject: Fw: B&C: Obama asks Congress to Delay DTV Transition

-- Sent from Blackberry Device --

From: Abramovitz, Louis
To: All Attorneys
Cc: Sackleh, Mary; Taylor, Lillian
Sent: Thu Jan 08 14:36:06 2009
Subject: B&C: Obama asks Congress to Delay DTV Transition

<http://www.broadcastingcable.com/article/CA6627776.html?desc=topstory>

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F: 202.457.2244

January 12, 2009

The Honorable Jay Rockefeller
Chairman
Commerce Science and Transportation Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member
Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Rockefeller and Waxman and Ranking Members Hutchison and Barton:

We understand that Congress is considering extending the deadline for the transition to digital television (the "DTV transition"), which is scheduled for February 17, 2009. This is no doubt a thorny and complicated issue that implicates the interests of a variety of stakeholders, including not just millions of Americans who rely solely on broadcast television signals but also the many broadband and telecommunications providers that have already invested enormous sums to acquire the spectrum at the heart of this issue to provide next generation broadband. We understand and are sympathetic to the concerns raised by others that delay of the digital conversion could cause further viewer confusion or set back broadband deployment efforts by the industry. However, from AT&T's perspective, a smooth transition from analog broadcast transmission to digital is in the public interest and will ultimately inure to the benefit of all Americans. Given that, if Congress and the Administration conclude that a short delay in implementation of the DTV transition is necessary, AT&T will support such an extension.

We ask, however, that Congress remain cognizant of the fact that access to this 700 MHz spectrum is critically important for the deployment of next generation broadband services. In AT&T's case, having invested \$6 billion for its 700 MHz licenses, getting access to this spectrum in a timely fashion is critical to our ability to deploy competitive 4G broadband services. AT&T and other licensees face potentially severe risks from a delay. Having paid for the spectrum and been assured of its timely availability, the licensees have invested heavily – beyond just the cost of the spectrum itself – and have been planning to utilize the spectrum for advanced, innovative services. These efforts are designed and implemented over the course of years, and are based fundamentally on the availability of the spectrum at a designated time. Any delay of the cutoff date beyond this limited extension would surely interfere with these carefully planned innovations, undercut the long-term financial viability of the investments behind them, and distort competition in the marketplace, all to the detriment of consumers.

For these reasons and those of elemental fairness, Congress should couple any short extension with adequate and concrete steps to protect the legitimate rights of the licensees. At a minimum, these steps should include the following:

- Congress should limit any extension to a short, defined period, preferably 3 months or less, and confirm that it will be a one-time event. In this way, the impact on consumers and the deployment of next-generation wireless broadband will be relatively manageable and predictable.
- Build-out requirements and other license terms should be modified to account for the extension. The term of any license should be extended by the full length of any extension. Likewise, if licensees are delayed in their access to the spectrum, they should receive an equal amount of additional time to meet any build-out requirements established by the applicable license.
- To the extent that the spectrum purchased by licensees is going to be used by others during that timeframe, licensees should be reimbursed in some manner for that use.
- Congress should ensure that, beyond the delay itself, licensees suffer no other adverse consequence or disadvantage in law or policy from the delay in access to this spectrum.

AT&T recognizes that Congress must balance a variety of potentially competing factors when evaluating a possible extension of the DTV transition. We further agree that, in this case, minimizing disruption and confusion for the television-viewing public

must be a paramount consideration. Thus, so long as the legitimate interests of licensees are addressed as outlined above, AT&T will support a one-time, limited extension of the current cutoff date.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. ...". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 2:43 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: Obama asks Congress to Delay DTV Transition
Attachments: Podesta DTV Letter[1].pdf

From: Tramont, Bryan [mailto:BTramont@wbklaw.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2009 2:57 PM
To: Rosemary Harold
Subject: Fw: Obama asks Congress to Delay DTV Transition

-- Sent from Blackberry Device --

From: Roisman, Natalie
To: Tramont, Bryan; Krinsky, Adam
Sent: Thu Jan 08 14:50:55 2009
Subject: Obama asks Congress to Delay DTV Transition

Attached is a copy of the letter sent today from John Podesta of the Obama-Biden transition team to Sens. Rockefeller and Hutchison and Reps. Waxman and Barton requesting a delay in the date of the DTV transition.

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THE OFFICE
of the
**PRESIDENT
ELECT**

January 8, 2009

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV, Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
United States Senate

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
United States Senate

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Rockefeller, Senator Hutchison, Chairman Waxman, and Congressman Barton:

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During the Transition, we have discovered major difficulties in the preparation for the February 17 conversion from analog to digital broadcasting. These weaknesses mean major problems for consumers. Because Congress mandated the conversion date and other components of the switch, congressional action is the first step toward addressing the problems awaiting Americans.

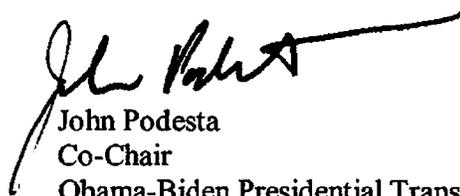
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All of the above leads to a conclusion that the February 17 cutoff date for analog signals should be reconsidered and extended. With coupons unavailable, support and education insufficient, and the most vulnerable Americans exposed, I urge you to consider a change to the legislatively-mandated analog cutoff date.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to working with you in any way you find helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Podesta", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

John Podesta
Co-Chair
Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Team

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 2:43 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: PRESS RELEASE: Senator Hutchison: Too Early to Call for DTV Delay
Importance: High
Attachments: image001.jpg

From: Tramont, Bryan [mailto:BTramont@wbklaw.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2009 5:00 PM
To: Rosemary Harold
Subject: Fw: PRESS RELEASE: Senator Hutchison: Too Early to Call for DTV Delay
Importance: High

-- Sent from Blackberry Device --

From: Nagle, Paul (Commerce)
Sent: Thu Jan 08 16:56:26 2009
Subject: FW: PRESS RELEASE: Senator Hutchison: Too Early to Call for DTV Delay

From: Brenckle, Joe (Commerce)
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2009 4:56 PM
Subject: PRESS RELEASE: Senator Hutchison: Too Early to Call for DTV Delay
Importance: High

 Commerce Committee Banner

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, Ranking Member

For Immediate Release:
January 8, 2009
3991

Contact:
Joe Brenckle (202) 224-
3991

Senator Hutchison: Too Early to Call for DTV Delay

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas), Ranking Member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, today said it was too early to call for a delay to the digital television (DTV) transition scheduled for next month. Senator Hutchison stated that increased focus was needed to fix the

anticipated coupon shortage before the transition date of February 17, 2009.

"I am concerned about moving the date of the upcoming digital television transition," said Senator Hutchison. "We need to focus on a solution to the coupon shortage. Shifting the date this close to the transition, without a sound plan to share information about the new transition date, will likely result in significant confusion. I share concerns about the availability of coupons and pledge my support in working with my colleagues to find a solution to this problem."

#

Joe Brenckle
Republican Communications Director
Senate Commerce Committee
560 Dirksen Senate Office Building
202-224-3991
<http://commerce.senate.gov/public/>

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Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 2:43 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: Obama: Delay DTV Transition

-----Original Message-----

From: Brigid Calamis
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2009 4:52 PM
To: RMCDSTAFF
Subject: Fw: Obama: Delay DTV Transition

Brigid N. Calamis
Office of Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
(202) 418-2200
brigid.calamis@fcc.gov

----- Original Message -----

From: EdHearn@
To: EdHearn
Sent: Thu Jan 08 16:37:54 2009
Subject: Obama: Delay DTV Transition

Obama: Delay DTV Transition

President-elect Says Poor, Elderly Aren't Ready for Feb. 17 Transition

By Ted Hearn -- Multichannel News, 1/8/2009 1:27:00 PM

Washington—President-elect Barack Obama wants to delay the Feb. 17 transition to digital broadcasting, claiming the country, particularly the poor and elderly, are not prepared for the cutoff of analog TV signals so soon after he takes office on Jan. 20.

<<http://a330.g.akamai.net/7/330/2540/20090108203553/www.multichannel.com/articles/images/MCN/20090108/obamatransition300.jpg>> Obama's call for delay came in a letter Thursday from the co-chairman of his transition team, John Podesta, to the bipartisan leadership of the Commerce Committee's in the House and Senate.

Podesta didn't say how long the delay should last.

In a statement Thursday afternoon, U.S. Representative Joe Barton (R-Texas) decried Obama's suggestion, saying "ditching the deadline and slathering on more millions of taxpayer dollars...is just panic."

"We don't need to bail out the DTV transition program because it isn't failing, and reintroducing uncertainty to the switch will make things worse instead of better," he said in the statement. "Congress has already put up \$1.5 billion to ease the switch to digital television and that money is far from gone, recent headlines notwithstanding. About 300,000 of the \$40 consumer coupons expire each week and as they do, more coupons go out."

"Everybody recognizes that these aren't ordinary times, and I'm working with Chairman Markey on an accounting bill that allows NTIA to meet the last-minute demand by issuing

additional coupons," he continued. "That's the right thing to do."

President Bush signed the law in February 2006 to make Feb. 17, 2009 the cutoff date of analog TV signals nationally.

Podesta argued that the \$1.34 billion, digital-to-analog converter box coupon program run by the U.S. Commerce Department can't issue any new coupons. That, he said, has produced a waiting list <http://www.multichannel.com/article/CA6627643.html> for 1 million \$40 coupons. He also complained there was insufficient financial support for programs designed to help rural, poor and elderly to prepare for digital TV service.

"All of the above leads to the conclusion that the Feb. 17 cutoff of analog signals should be reconsidered and extended," Podesta said.

An Obama transition office spokeswoman said that Obama supports Podesta's letter.

« Back [javascript:history.go\(-1\)](#) | Print [javascript:window.print\(\)](#)

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New year...new news. Be the first to know what is making headlines <http://www.aol.com/?ncid=emlcntaolcom00000026> .

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 2:44 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: NY Times

-----Original Message-----

From: Tramont, Bryan [mailto:BTramont@wbklaw.com]
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 12:25 AM
To: Rosemary Harold
Subject: Fw: NY Times

-- Sent from Blackberry Device --

----- Original Message -----

From: Tramont, Bryan
To: Krinsky, Adam; Tramont, Bryan
Sent: Fri Jan 09 00:24:16 2009
Subject: NY Times

NY Times
January 9, 2009
Op-Contributors
Don't Touch That Dial
By WILLIAM KENNARD and MICHAEL POWELL

THE countdown clock is ticking on the digital television transition and it is becoming increasingly clear that the nation will not be ready. Analog television broadcasts are scheduled to stop on Feb. 17 and, after that, only digital signals are to be available. Then millions of Americans who rely on analog TV sets and antennas must start using converter boxes that will allow them to receive digital signals, or see only a black screen.

In 2005, Congress devised a program meant to ensure that this transition would be smooth. But with 40 days to go, it is now clear that we are heading for a train wreck - unless Congress delays the transition for a few months to allow more time to prepare.

People who subscribe to cable or satellite services or have a newer television with a digital tuner are not at risk of losing their programming. But as many as 19 million American households still rely solely on over-the-air analog television, and perhaps another 19 million use over-the-air in combination with cable or satellite. This population is disproportionately made up of poorer households, the elderly and members of minority groups.

To ease the burden of buying a converter box, Congress appropriated \$1.34 billion for 33.5 million \$40 coupons that can be redeemed at stores where the boxes are sold. (Boxes cost \$40 to \$80.) People who want these coupons

must apply for them from the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and then it takes about four to six weeks for them to arrive in the mail. After 90 days, the coupons expire and no one is allowed to request a second one.

Demand for the coupons has been much greater than expected. More than 46 million requests have come in. And there aren't enough coupons to go around. Starting this week, all new requests are being put on a waiting list. No additional coupons can be issued until those already issued expire.

Of course, it is already too late to apply for a coupon and receive it before Feb. 17.

And coupons or no coupons, there is a real danger that there will not be enough converter boxes on store shelves to meet demand. So far 18 million boxes have been purchased using coupons, and an estimated 11 million are in inventory. But total demand is estimated to be 33 million to 60 million units. So there could easily be a shortage of 4 million to 31 million.

The government is also unprepared to handle the volume of calls from baffled television viewers once the switch to digital occurs. Nearly 1.5 million calls are expected to come into a special Federal Communications Commission call center on each of the two days following the transition, but this center will be able to handle only about 350,000 calls a day.

Moreover, many people will need help hooking up their converter boxes and setting up their antennas. (Picking up the digital signal may require reorienting or moving an antenna, or buying a more powerful digital antenna.) The government should train community groups to give assistance to those who need it.

By delaying the switch to digital by just a few months, and spending more money on the program - which the Obama transition team hinted on Thursday that it might favor - we could provide enough coupons and establish a stronger call center. There would be time for manufacturers to put more converter boxes in the pipeline. And we'd have enough time to work with community groups to provide technical assistance and support to the people who need it.

If the transition to digital TV goes badly, it will inconvenience millions. There is no reason to rush toward a fiasco when we can just as well take the time to make sure the change happens smoothly.

William Kennard was the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission from 1997 to 2001 and is a member of The New York Times board of directors.

Michael Powell was the F.C.C. chairman from 2001 to 2005.

-- Sent from Blackberry Device --

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Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 2:44 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: Markey Draft Keeps Feb. 17 DTV Transition

-----Original Message-----

From: Brigid Calamis
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 5:23 PM
To: RMCSTAFF
Subject: Fw: Markey Draft Keeps Feb. 17 DTV Transition

Brigid N. Calamis
Office of Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
(202) 418-2200
brigid.calamis@fcc.gov

----- Original Message -----

From: EdHearn@
To: EdHearn@
Sent: Fri Jan 09 17:09:57 2009
Subject: Markey Draft Keeps Feb. 17 DTV Transition

Markey Draft Keeps Feb. 17 DTV Transition

Bill Flies In Face Obama Team Request For Delay

By Ted Hearn -- Multichannel News, 1/9/2009 11:16:00 AM

Washington -- Rep. Edward Markey (D. Mass.) is circulating a draft bill on the digital TV transition that would retain the Feb. 17 cutoff of analog TV signals, despite a request Thursday by the co-chairman of the Obama transition team for a delay.

Markey's bill would waive a budget law to allow the Commerce Department to begin mailing out millions of \$40 coupons to consumers who need to buy digital-to-analog converter boxes to watch TV with an antenna.

The bill would also allow Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration to assume that 70% of coupons mailed will be used. Current laws force NTIA to assume that all unexpired coupons will be used, even though the one-year-old program has seen nearly half of all coupons go unused before their 90-day expiration.

Markey, who on Jan. 8 gave up the chairmanship of the House Communications, Technology and the Internet Subcommittee, remains influential on communications policy. In 2008, he held numerous hearings on the DTV transition.

The budget law, called the Antideficiency Act, has forced NTIA to create a waiting list that includes requests for 1.35 million coupons. NTIA can't issue new coupons until old ones have expired, which recycles money into the program. NTIA has re-issued 334,000

expired coupons since Sunday, an NTIA spokesman said Friday.

On Thursday, Obama transition co-chair John Podesta called for a delay, citing NTIA's coupon program backlog and claiming that too many poor, rural and elderly residents were unprepared for the analog TV cutoff so soon after new the president takes office on Jan. 20.

"With coupons unavailable, support and education insufficient, and the most vulnerable Americans exposed, I urge you to consider a change to the legislatively-mandated analog cutoff date," Podesta said in a letter to the bipartisan leadership of the House and Senate commerce committees.

Obama's call for delay was sharply criticized by Rep. Joe Barton, a senior House Republican who helped design the DTV transition law signed by President Bush in February 2006.

Barton decried Obama's suggestion, saying "ditching the deadline and slathering on more millions of taxpayer dollars...is just panic."

U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez said Friday that he supported retention of Feb. 17 as the transition date.

"We think the statutory date made sense, and its certainty has been a key element of efforts by the government and the private sector to raise awareness and drive preparedness. That's why we supported it. We still do. We're working closely to ensure a smooth transition, and we'll let the next administration comment on the President-elect's views."

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New year...new news. Be the first to know what is making headlines <<http://www.aol.com/?ncid=emlcntaolcom00000026>> .

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 2:44 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: DTV

-----Original Message-----

From: Rmcd
Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2009 5:29 PM
To: 'kmc@NCTA.com'; 'robmcdowell@cox.net'
Cc: Rosemary Harold; Brigid Calamis
Subject: Re: DTV

Thx. I had planned to be in TX tomorrow for DTV ed, but complicated flight delays have ruined that plan. Anyway, I'll be in the office tomorrow (hopefully, if I can ever get out Las Vegas.)

Happy to fill you in on the remarks Jonathan and I made on this topic at CES yesterday. Bottom line: we both think we should stick to Feb. 17. Delay won't solve some of the problems. Trade press coverage probably won't hit until Tuesday, however.

Sorry about the BCS game.

-- R

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

----- Original Message -----

From: Kyle McSlarrow <kmc@NCTA.com>
To: [REDACTED] Rmcd
Cc: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Sun Jan 11 16:54:40 2009
Subject: DTV

Rob and Rosemary: Wanted you to see a note I sent to Tom Wheeler last Thursday. As you may have seen from our public statements last week, our position is (as it has been) that we will work with whatever date Congress sets. But, since I invoke your name in the letter, I wanted you to see that the uncertainty does have real world operational impact. We are continuing to work very closely with the Transition team on this, and for the moment trying to ascertain where we can defer decisions and stretch things out a little while we try to see if we can some more clarity on the Hill. But the reality is that we were set to execute contracts late last week and every day now matters.

Happy to discuss. And would be interested in any guidance you might have.

K

Kyle McSlarrow

President and CEO

National Cable & Telecommunications Association

25 Massachusetts Ave, NW

Washington, DC 20001

(202) 222-2500

kmc@ncta.com <mailto:kmc@ncta.com>

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 2:47 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: DTV 'grassroots' contracts and nightlight notice --> order

From: Brigid Calamis
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2009 11:53 AM
To: Rosemary Harold
Subject: FW: DTV 'grassroots' contracts and nightlight notice --> order

I did not respond to him, did you? Unfortunately, he ran a line in today's Comm Daily "The other two FCC members couldn't be reached to comment."
My fault, but wanted to double check that you didn't respond either.

From: Make, Jonathan [mailto:jmake@warren-news.com]
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 7:49 AM
To: Rosemary Harold; Brigid Calamis
Subject: RE: DTV 'grassroots' contracts and nightlight notice --> order

Hi Rosemary, Not a problem at all.
I'll check back later.
By the way. Brigid and Rosemary, does Comr. McDowell have a statement or want to discuss whether a DTV delay is called for?
Comr. Copps issued a brief statement last night supporting it.
Jonathan

From: Rosemary Harold [mailto:Rosemary.Harold@fcc.gov]
Sent: Fri 1/9/2009 2:22 AM
To: Make, Jonathan; Brigid Calamis
Subject: Re: DTV 'grassroots' contracts and nightlight notice --> order

Sorry to be so late in responding. I haven't yet seen anything.

----- Original Message -----

From: Make, Jonathan <jmake@warren-news.com>
To: Rosemary Harold; Brigid Calamis
Sent: Thu Jan 08 21:11:28 2009
Subject: RE: DTV 'grassroots' contracts and nightlight notice --> order

Good evening (or morning, depending on when you read this) Brigid and Rosemary,

I just wanted to see if the order has circulated yet, and if not if the chairman's office has indicated if it will circulate on Friday.

3/6/2009

Thank you,
Jonathan

From: Rosemary Harold [<mailto:Rosemary.Harold@fcc.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2009 9:10 AM
To: Make, Jonathan; Brigid Calamis
Subject: RE: DTV 'grassroots' contracts and nightlight notice --> order

Hi, Jonathan -- Short answers embedded below. Feel free to give me a call before 11:30 if you would like to follow up.

From: Make, Jonathan [<mailto:jmake@warren-news.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2009 11:55 PM
To: Brigid Calamis; Rosemary Harold
Subject: DTV 'grassroots' contracts and nightlight notice --> order

Hello Brigid and Rosemary.

Wanted to see if someone from Commissioner McDowell's office could help me with a few questions on the grassroots contracts and the nightlight notice. I can be reached at 202 725 5572 tomorrow until noon; and at 202 872 9202 x250 from 2p onwards. I'm also checking with members of the Consumer Advisory Committee on the contracts.

--No information about the deliverables each contract recipient agreed to provide or other pertinent information is available, at least not yet, from OMD. Without such information, it's nearly impossible to understand the extent of services each contractor will provide. Did commissioners receive any information about this?

No. First official word we got about these contracts was the release of last night's news release, which contains all the detail we've been presented to date.

--I presume that commissioners will agree to vote on the nightlight notice order, when it circulates, with less than the now-standard three-weeks whitecopy in advance of the Jan. 15th meeting? Is this the case, and has the chairman's office let commissioners know about this situation and asked about their willingness to vote the item under such circumstances?

People understand that we are under a fast-track STATUTORY deadline. Congress has ordered the Commission to act by Jan. 15, which trumps our internal rules. People here understand that, and I don't anticipate problems meeting the deadline.

--Have commissioners and/or their staffers yet received information from the commission about FCC DTV call center volume and other characteristics of the first nationwide soft analog cutoff on Dec. 17? Last I checked a few weeks ago, commissioners and their aides had not received any information but had requested it.

Still nothing.

--I understand, albeit from a single industry source, that Gerard Salemme has been serving as a sort of ad hoc transition team DTV czar. Has he been involved in such a way?

Hope you both are well, and happy 2009.

I have heard that indirectly, too, but I have no direct knowledge on the subject.

Jonathan

3/6/2009

From: David Fiske [mailto:David.Fiske@fcc.gov]
Sent: Tue 1/6/2009 7:16 PM
Cc: Edie Herman; David Fiske
Subject: FCC Announces Selection of DTV Outreach Groups

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

January 6, 2009 Mary Diamond (202) 418-2388

Email: mary.diamond@fcc.gov

Edie Herman (202) 418-2035

Email: edie.herman@fcc.gov

FCC Announces Selection of 12 Grassroots Groups for DTV Outreach Valued at \$8.4 Million

Focus is Reaching Seniors, People with Disabilities and Spanish-speaking households in Areas with Highest Over the Air Populations

Washington, DC – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today announced it has selected 12 grassroots organizations and local agencies to help over the air viewers prepare for the digital transition. Today's selections are worth up to \$8.4 million and are the culmination of a full and open procurement process.

The Commission sought proposals to conduct outreach in all parts of the country, with a particular focus on the 82 markets with the highest over the air television populations. In particular, the FCC selected organizations dedicated to serving across the country populations most at risk in the digital transition including senior citizens, people with disabilities and Spanish-speaking households. Specifically, the FCC sought the assistance of local, regional and national organizations with converter box procurement and installation, establishment and staffing of local call centers, educating consumers about the transition and other local grass roots efforts.

Last September, as part of the Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2009, Congress appropriated \$20 million to the FCC to help fund its digital television outreach efforts. On September 15, the FCC initiated a broad public request for proposals to conduct community-based grassroots outreach work for the digital television transition.

Following federal procurement practices, the Commission conducted a full and open competition. The FCC made its requirements public and sent copies of the procurement documents to dozens of organizations, who could potentially assist over the air viewers in getting ready for the digital television transition. In addition, the Commission's Consumer Advisory Committee worked to ensure that all of the potentially impacted communities were aware of the request for proposals.

Below is a description of the vendors selected, the outreach the group will perform, and their award amounts.

Nationwide Plans

AARP is a national nonprofit service organization that will assist senior citizens across the entire United States with the DTV transition by using its existing sophisticated telephone service center to provide help to seniors with questions about the transition. The organization will train its existing help center staff to answer questions, provide information and telephone-based technical help to seniors who need assistance with setting up their converter boxes and antennas. AARP will publicize the availability of its help centers in its publications and newsletters targeted to seniors. Awarded : \$2,719,947.

Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD) is a national nonprofit service organization that will assist disabled citizens (specifically, deaf and hard of hearing Americans) by providing assistance and information on how to obtain and install DTV converter boxes, how to make use of DTV closed captioning services, and other related technical questions relating to the DTV transition. This organization will create a national telephone/TTY help center for deaf / hard of hearing consumers. CSD will also work with other national service organizations serving the deaf and hard-of- hearing communities to provide information about the DTV transition to these consumers. Awarded: \$1,117,441.

Hispanic Information and Telecommunication Network (HITN) will assist the Hispanic population nationwide with procuring and installing converter boxes, partner with local community organizations to establish walk-in help centers within the 20 U.S. television markets with the highest Hispanic population, and conduct outreach. It will also continue to provide assistance after the transition through March 31, 2009 and will promote the availability of converter box assistance on television and in newspapers.

HITN will provide free installations of converter boxes and emphasize need for Hispanics in U.S./Mexican border states to get converter boxes with analog pass-through so they can continue to see both analog signals from Mexico and DTV from U.S. This will help people who may need to get new antennas, help those who haven't yet obtained converter boxes or who have trouble with installation. HITN has already conducted a field trial. Awarded : \$750,281.

State / Local / Regional Plans

PinTech Corporation is a private corporation that will offer consumer assistance to seniors, low income, disabled and non-English speaking and minority communities in a four-state region, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. This company will work with volunteers from state and local service organizations to assist consumers with information about the DTV conversion. In addition, this company will also provide a telephone DTV help center in each state to help citizens install their DTV converter boxes and will dispatch technicians to make on-site visits to assist customers whose problems cannot be solved over the phone. Awarded: \$ 2,839,783.

The Mayor's Commission on Technology is a local government agency serving Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It will help residents procure converter boxes by coordinating free installations via the city's 311 hotline. This organization will also create a local walk-in help centers and partner with local television stations to create local call-in centers. This organization will expand its DTV outreach efforts through e-mail blasts, town halls, and media interviews. It will provide assistance through March 13, 2009. It has already reached 25% of Philadelphia residents through its DTV outreach initiative. Awarded: \$166,244.

WXXI Public Broadcasting is a public broadcasting organization serving the greater Rochester, New York area, a rural region that includes many over-the-air television households. This organization will reach out to seniors, citizens in rural areas, disabled citizens, and minority communities in the area by conducting public educational outreach seminars about the DTV conversion and providing a toll-free telephone help center for consumers with additional questions. For elderly and disabled consumers who experience problems that cannot be solved over the phone, this organization will also send qualified professional technicians and the organization's own staff members in teams to make in-home visits to install converter boxes. Awarded: \$202,498.

VN TeamWork, Inc. is a local non-profit, community-based organization serving Southwest Houston and the Greater Houston area of Texas. In particular, it will target low-income, non-English speaking Asian Americans. It will help residents install converter boxes. This organization will also create a local walk-in help center and call-in center. In addition, this organization will publicize the DTV transition through radio announcements and the distribution of language-appropriate literature. It will continue providing assistance after the transition. Awarded: \$45,798.

Iowa Public Broadcasting Board is a state public broadcasting organization serving the state of Iowa. This organization will conduct a statewide education campaign to provide Iowans with information about the DTV conversion and how to prepare for it. In addition, this organization will also establish a telephone help center targeting seniors, citizens living in rural areas of the state, and low-income families and individuals in Iowa who need assistance making the transition to digital. The help center will answer consumer questions and provide technical troubleshooting advice over the phone, both before and in the days immediately following the February 17th transition date. Awarded: \$223,516.

Idaho Public Television is a state public broadcasting organization serving the state of Idaho. This organization will provide a statewide toll-free help line for citizens of Idaho (a rural state with a high percentage of viewers receiving television over the air) to answer consumer questions about the DTV transition. In addition, this organization's engineering staff will be available to assist consumers with technical troubleshooting issues by phone and email. Awarded: \$35,168.

Wisconsin Public Television is a state public broadcasting organization operated by a major state university system. This organization will provide statewide community outreach events for citizens throughout Wisconsin such as informational

Q&A presentations about the DTV transition and will work with state and local service organizations to reach out to citizens looking for help with installing and using their converter boxes. The organization will also provide a telephone help line to answer consumer questions about DTV and troubleshoot converter installation issues. This organization will specifically target hard to reach rural and minority populations (such as Hispanics and Hmong immigrant communities) in Wisconsin. Awarded: \$94,613.

Ohio State University / WOSU Public Media is a television organization serving the Columbus, Ohio television market, covering 55 counties in Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia. It will help residents procure converter boxes by coordinating free installations with local partner agencies. This organization will also create a local call-in and walk-in help center, and publicize the digital transition through live call-in shows on radio and television, as well as distributing printed materials through local libraries and partner organizations. It has already addressed 50 community groups about the transition and collected 2,300 coupons as of Oct. 2008 to donate to residents. Awarded: \$196,500.

Knox County CAC is a local non-profit agency serving Knox County, Tennessee, including Knoxville, Tennessee. It will help residents procure converter boxes by coordinating volunteers to accompany residents to stores or buying boxes on behalf of target groups, including seniors, people with disabilities, non-English speakers, and other minority groups. This organization will also create a local walk-in help center and call-in center. This organization will partner with local organizations including Meals on Wheels and Head Start, and the local Office on Aging to publicize the transition by distributing printed DTV materials. Awarded: \$36,241.

The total amount of the combined awards is \$8,428,031.

-FCC-

Rafael Fernandez

From: Rosemary Harold
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 2:47 PM
To: Rafael Fernandez
Subject: FW: DTV 'grassroots' contracts and nightlight notice --> order

From: Brigid Calamis
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2009 1:03 PM
To: 'Make, Jonathan'; Rosemary Harold
Subject: RE: DTV 'grassroots' contracts and nightlight notice --> order

Hi Jonathan,
Sorry we didn't respond to your question on DTV-- while on travel I think it slipped through the cracks.
Please always feel free to ping us again. Even if we don't have a comment on a specific matter we will still let you know at least that.
Thanks,
Brigid

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3/6/2009

Friday.

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3/6/2009

Jonathan

From: David Fiske [mailto:David.Fiske@fcc.gov]
Sent: Tue 1/6/2009 7:16 PM
Cc: Edie Herman; David Fiske
Subject: FCC Announces Selection of DTV Outreach Groups

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

January 6, 2009 Mary Diamond (202) 418-2388

Email: mary.diamond@fcc.gov

Edie Herman (202) 418-2035

Email: edie.herman@fcc.gov

FCC Announces Selection of 12 Grassroots Groups for DTV Outreach Valued at \$8.4 Million

Focus is Reaching Seniors, People with Disabilities and Spanish-speaking households in Areas with Highest Over the Air Populations

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3/6/2009

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WXXI Public Broadcasting is a public broadcasting organization serving the greater Rochester, New York area, a rural region that includes many over-the-air television households. This organization will reach out to seniors, citizens in rural areas, disabled citizens, and minority communities in the area by conducting public educational outreach seminars about the DTV conversion and providing a toll-free telephone help center for consumers with additional questions. For elderly and disabled consumers who experience problems that cannot be solved over the phone, this organization will also send qualified professional technicians and the organization's own staff members in teams to make in-home visits to install converter boxes. Awarded: \$202,498.

VN TeamWork, Inc. is a local non-profit, community-based organization serving Southwest Houston and the Greater Houston area of Texas. In particular, it will target low-income, non-English speaking Asian Americans. It will help residents install converter boxes. This organization will also create a local walk-in help center and call-in center. In addition, this organization will publicize the DTV transition through radio announcements and the distribution of language-appropriate literature. It will continue providing assistance after the transition. Awarded: \$45,798.

Iowa Public Broadcasting Board is a state public broadcasting organization serving the state of Iowa. This organization will conduct a statewide education campaign to provide Iowans with information about the DTV conversion and how to prepare for it. In addition, this organization will also establish a telephone help center targeting seniors, citizens living in rural areas of the state, and low-income families and individuals in Iowa who need assistance making the transition to digital. The help center will answer consumer questions and provide technical troubleshooting advice over the phone, both before and in the days immediately following the February 17th transition date. Awarded: \$223,516.

Idaho Public Television is a state public broadcasting organization serving the state of Idaho. This organization will provide a statewide toll-free help line for citizens of Idaho (a rural state with a high percentage of viewers receiving television over the air) to answer consumer questions about the DTV transition. In addition, this organization's engineering staff will be available to assist consumers with technical troubleshooting issues by phone and email. Awarded: \$35,168.

Wisconsin Public Television is a state public broadcasting organization operated by a major state university system. This organization will provide statewide community outreach events for citizens throughout Wisconsin such as informational Q&A presentations about the DTV transition and will work with state and local service organizations to reach out to citizens looking for help with installing and using their converter boxes. The organization will also provide a telephone help line to answer consumer questions about DTV and troubleshoot converter installation issues. This organization will specifically target hard to reach rural and minority populations (such as Hispanics and Hmong immigrant communities) in Wisconsin. Awarded: \$94,613.

Ohio State University / WOSU Public Media is a television organization serving the Columbus, Ohio television market, covering 55 counties in Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia. It will help residents procure converter boxes by coordinating free installations with local partner agencies. This organization will also create a local call-in and walk-in help center, and publicize the digital transition through live call-in shows on radio and television, as well as distributing printed materials through local libraries and partner organizations. It has already addressed 50 community groups about the transition and collected 2,300 coupons as of Oct. 2008 to donate to residents. Awarded: \$196,500.

Knox County CAC is a local non-profit agency serving Knox County, Tennessee, including Knoxville, Tennessee. It will help residents procure converter boxes by coordinating volunteers to accompany residents to stores or buying boxes on behalf of target groups, including seniors, people with disabilities, non-English speakers, and other minority groups. This organization will also create a local walk-in help center and call-in center. This organization will partner with local organizations including Meals on Wheels and Head Start, and the local Office on Aging to publicize the transition by distributing printed DTV materials. Awarded: \$36,241.

The total amount of the combined awards is \$8,428,031.

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Ivan Seidenberg
Chairman & CEO



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January 12, 2009

The Honorable Jay Rockefeller
Chairman
Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member
Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Rockefeller and Waxman and Ranking Members Hutchison and Barton:

I understand you have received a recommendation from the President-elect's Transition Team to delay the digital television (DTV) date. I urge you to resist that recommendation. Not only is it unclear that a delay will ensure a smoother transition, but it is likely a delay would undermine the DTV transition by causing significant disruption and consumer confusion. In addition, delaying the transition will postpone the availability of spectrum critical for advanced commercial and public safety communications systems that will help achieve two important objectives: more extensive broadband deployment and interoperable first responder communications.

We understand and share your desire that the DTV transition be as smooth as possible. To that end, the public and private sectors have invested substantial time, energy and resources to implement the transition and inform consumers of the February 17, 2009 deadline Congress set in the Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005. That effort is achieving its objective. As reported by the Consumer Electronics Association this past week, the DTV transition is on schedule, and over 90 percent of Americans have already taken steps to prepare. The CEA, representing the businesses engaged in the front lines of the effort to get the necessary equipment in consumers' homes, further reports that it expects the switch-over to be successful. Any delay, especially at this late date, would risk enormous disruption and consumer confusion.

The immediate issue is getting digital-to-analog converter boxes in the hands of consumers who need them. CEA indicates that an ample supply of converter boxes is available, and manufacturers and retailers stand ready to meet consumer requests for equipment. But provisions of the Anti-Deficiency Act are causing a delay in the distribution of the converter box coupons. This narrow issue has an equally narrow solution: Congress can and should promptly waive the requirements of the Anti-Deficiency Act and allow NTIA to distribute more coupons.

Delaying the transition will have consequences far beyond those necessary to meet the immediate coupon problem. In addition to confusing the public, a delay will slow the broadband deployment that President-elect Obama has repeatedly emphasized as an essential contributor to long-term economic, productivity, and wage growth in the United States. Broadband deployment is also vital to addressing the energy, environmental, and health care issues confronting our nation.

Congress ordered this transition so that critical spectrum could be freed for broadband deployment. For its part, Verizon Wireless paid the U.S. Treasury \$9.3 billion last spring for 700 MHz radio spectrum licenses, and we have committed publicly to make even more significant investments in building out the 4G, Long-Term Evolution (LTE) network in those frequencies over the next several years. LTE will facilitate the provision of mobile broadband services nationwide, including areas of the country that have few, if any, broadband services available today. Verizon Wireless intends to begin field testing and deployment of LTE this year. Deployment of LTE, however, can only be done if we have access to the 700 MHz frequencies. Delaying the DTV transition will delay our ability to upgrade those frequencies to 4G broadband for American consumers and have a negative impact on our nation's international competitiveness.

Delaying the DTV transition would also impede the deployment of advanced communications systems that are critical to our nation's first responders. On January 9th, four of the nation's largest public safety organizations sent a letter to President-Elect Obama expressing their concern about the impact of a delay on public safety communications. The lack of interoperable communications for police, fire, and other emergency personnel became apparent to all during the events of 9/11. A delay in the DTV transition would force the nation's first responders to wait still longer for the interoperable voice and data communications systems they so desperately need.

While the DTV transition has already been lengthy, we finally are about to secure the public benefits after an enormous investment of time, energy, and resources. The precise problem we face at this juncture – the shortage of converter box coupons – can be remedied expeditiously and efficiently through legislation waiving the Anti-Deficiency Act. Taking the far more drastic step of delaying the transition from the analog past to the digital future is unnecessary. I strongly urge you to continue working with all stakeholders to successfully complete the transition on February 17, 2009, so that we avoid the serious negative consequences which any delay would yield.

Thank you very much for your attention to this critically important matter.

Sincerely,

