

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[DA 03-135]

Public Safety National Coordination Committee

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document advises interested persons of a meeting of the Public Safety National Coordination Committee ("NCC"), which will be held in Washington, DC. The Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, as amended, requires public notice of all meetings of the NCC. This notice advises interested persons of the nineteenth meeting of the Public Safety National Coordination Committee.

DATES: February 21, 2003 at 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Designated Federal Officer, Michael J. Wilhelm, (202) 418-0680, e-mail mjwilhelm@fcc.gov. Press Contact, Meribeth McCarrick, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 202-418-0600, or e-mail mmccarri@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Following is the complete text of the Public Notice: This Public Notice advises interested persons of the nineteenth meeting of the Public Safety National Coordination Committee ("NCC"), which will be held in Washington, DC. The Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, as amended, requires public notice of all meetings of the NCC.

Date: February 21, 2003.

Meeting Time: General Membership Meeting—9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Addresses: Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554.

The NCC Subcommittees will meet from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. the previous day. The NCC General Membership Meeting will commence at 9:30 a.m. and continue until 12:30 p.m. The agenda for the NCC membership meeting is as follows:

1. Introduction and Welcoming Remarks
2. Administrative Matters
3. Report from the Interoperability Subcommittee
4. Report from the Technology Subcommittee
5. Report from the Implementation Subcommittee
6. Public Discussion
7. Action on Subcommittee Recommendations

8. Other Business
9. Upcoming Meeting Dates and Locations
10. Closing Remarks

The FCC has established the Public Safety National Coordination Committee, pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, to advise the Commission on a variety of issues relating to the use of the 24 MHz of spectrum in the 764-776/794-806 MHz frequency bands (collectively, the 700 MHz band) that has been allocated to public safety services. See The Development of Operational, Technical and Spectrum Requirements For Meeting Federal, State and Local Public Safety Agency Communications Requirements Through the Year 2010 and Establishment of Rules and Requirements For Priority Access Service, WT Docket No. 96-86, First Report and Order and Third Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 98-191, 14 FCC Rcd 152 (1998), 63 FR 58645 (11-2-98).

The NCC has an open membership. Previous expressions of interest in membership have been received in response to several Public Notices inviting interested persons to become members and to participate in the NCC's processes. All persons who have previously identified themselves or have been designated as a representative of an organization are deemed members and are invited to attend. All other interested parties are hereby invited to attend and to participate in the NCC processes and its meetings and to become members of the Committee. This policy will ensure balanced participation. Members of the general public may attend the meeting. To attend the nineteenth meeting of the Public Safety National Coordination Committee, please RSVP to Joy Alford of the Policy and Rules Branch of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau of the FCC by calling (202) 418-0680, by faxing (202) 418-2643, or by E-mailing at jalford@fcc.gov. Please provide your name, the organization you represent, your phone number, fax number and e-mail address. This RSVP is for the purpose of determining the number of people who will attend this nineteenth meeting. The FCC will attempt to accommodate as many people as possible. However, admittance will be limited to the seating available. Persons requesting accommodations for hearing disabilities should contact Joy Alford immediately at (202) 418-7233 (TTY). Persons requesting accommodations for other physical disabilities should contact Joy

Alford immediately at (202) 418-0694 or via e-mail at jalford@fcc.gov. The public may submit written comments to the NCC's Designated Federal Officer before the meeting.

Additional information about the NCC and NCC-related matters can be found on the NCC Web site located at: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/publicsafety/ncc>.

Federal Communications Commission.

Jeanne Kowalski,

Deputy Division Chief for Public Safety, Public Safety and Private Wireless Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

[FR Doc. 03-1456 Filed 1-22-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[MB Docket No. 02-145, FCC 02-338]

Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document is in compliance with the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, which requires the Commission to report annually to Congress on the status of competition in the market for the delivery of video programming.

On December 23, 2002, the Commission adopted its ninth annual report (*2002 Report*). The *2002 Report* contains data and information that summarize the status of competition in markets for the delivery of video programming and updates the Commission's prior reports.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marcia Glaubergerman or Anne Levine, Media Bureau (202) 418-7200, TTY (202) 418-7172.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's *2002 Report* in MB Docket No. 02-145, FCC 02-338, adopted December 23, 2002, and released December 31, 2002. The complete text of the *2002 Report* is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554, and may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554, telephone (202) 863-2893, facsimile (202) 863-2890, or e-mail at qualex@aol.com. In addition, the complete text of the *2002 Report* is

available on the Internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/mb>.

Synopsis of the 2002 Report

1. The 2002 Report provides updated information on the status of competition in the market for the delivery of video programming, discusses changes that have occurred in the competitive environment over the last year, and describes barriers to competition that continue to exist. Overall, although competitive alternatives continue to develop, cable television still is the dominant technology for the delivery of video programming to consumers in the multichannel video program distributor (MVPD) services marketplace. As of June 2002, 76.5 percent of MVPD subscribers received their video programming from a franchised cable operator, compared to 78 percent a year earlier.

2. The number of cable subscribers reached nearly 68.8 million as of June 2002, up about 0.4 percent from the 68.55 million cable subscribers in June 2001. Although industry data collected for this report period reflect continued growth through June 2002, a number of major cable system operators have experienced significant subscriber losses and calendar year 2002 may be the first year in which the cable industry as a whole experiences a net loss of subscribers.

3. The total number of non-cable MVPD subscribers grew to 21.1 million as of June 2002 from 19.3 million as of June 2001, an increase of more than nine percent. Direct broadcast satellite (DBS) service has grown significantly and now represents 20.3 percent of all MVPD subscribers. Between June 2001 and June 2002, the number of DBS subscribers grew from almost 16 million households to about 18 million households, which is significantly higher than the cable subscriber growth rate.

4. Over the last year, the number of subscribers to multichannel multipoint distribution service (MMDS) and large dish satellite service (HSD) continue to decline. The participation of incumbent local exchange carriers in the distribution of video programming also continue to decline. The number of subscribers to open video systems (OVS) and private cable has remained relatively stable, although their market share remains small.

5. During the period under review, cable rates continued to rise. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, between June 2001 and June 2002, cable prices rose 6.3 percent compared to a 1.1 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index, which measures general

price changes. Concurrently with these rate increases, the number of video and non-video services offered increased and programming costs increased.

6. As the Commission reported earlier, the four largest incumbent local exchange carriers or telephone companies, have largely exited the video business. This remains true today. A few smaller local exchange carriers continue to offer, or are preparing to offer, MVPD service over existing telephone lines. Alternatively, several cable multiple system operators continue to offer telephone services. Cable operators are beginning to deploy Internet protocol telephony solutions in addition to circuit-switched telephone offerings.

7. The most significant convergence of service offerings continues to be the pairing of Internet service with other service offerings. Cable operators continue to build-out the broadband infrastructure that permits them to offer high-speed Internet access. Like cable, the DBS industry is developing ways to bring advanced services to their customers. Many MMDS and private cable operators also offer Internet services. In addition, broadband service providers continue to build advanced systems specifically to offer a bundle of services, including video, voice, and high-speed Internet access.

8. Non-cable MVPDs continue to report that regulatory and other barriers to entry limit their ability to compete with incumbent cable operators. Non-cable MVPDs continue to experience some difficulties in obtaining programming from vertically-integrated cable programmers and from unaffiliated programmers which continue to make exclusive agreements with operators. In multiple dwelling units potential entry may be discouraged or limited because an incumbent video programming distributor has a long term and/or exclusive contract. In addition, non-cable MVPDs report problems obtaining franchises from local governments and difficulties in gaining access to utility poles needed to build out their systems.

9. In sum, the 2002 Report details the status of competitors in the market for the delivery of video programming including: Cable systems, DBS and home satellite dishes, wireless cable systems, private cable operators, broadcast television, local exchange carrier entry, open video systems, broadband service providers, Internet video, home video sales and rentals, and electric and gas utilities. The report also examines market structure and competition by evaluating horizontal concentration in the MVPD

marketplace; analyzing vertical integration between cable television systems and programming services; and discussing technical issues such as cable modems, navigation devices and emerging services.

Ordering Clauses

10. The 2002 Report is issued pursuant to authority contained in sections 4(i), (4)(j), 403, and 628(g) of the Communications Act of 1934 as amended, 47 U.S.C. 154(i), 154(j), 403, and 548(g).

11. The Commission's Office of Legislative Affairs shall send copies of the 2002 Report to the appropriate committees and subcommittees of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate.

12. The proceeding in MB Docket No. 02-145 is terminated.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene H. Dortch,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-1459 Filed 1-22-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Notices

AGENCY: Federal Election Commission.

DATE & TIME: Tuesday, January 28, 2003, at 10 a.m.

PLACE: 999 E Street, NW., Washington, DC.

STATUS: This meeting will be closed to the public.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: Compliance matters pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437g.

Audits conducted pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437g, 438(b), and title 26, U.S.C.

Matters concerning participation in civil actions or proceedings or arbitration.

Internal personnel rules and procedures or matters affecting a particular employee.

DATE & TIME: Thursday, January 30, 2003, at 10 a.m.

PLACE: 999 E Street, NW., Washington, DC (ninth floor).

STATUS: This meeting will be closed to the public.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: Correction and approval of minutes.

New and amended FEC reporting forms—BCRA implementation.

New and amended instructions for FEC reporting forms—BCRA implementation.

Administrative matters.