



August 7, 2017

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Communication, GN Docket No. 16-142

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On August 3, Alison Neplokh and the undersigned, both of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), Gerard Waldron of Covington & Burling LLP, representing Pearl TV, Jerald Fritz of ONE Media, LLC and Mark Aitken of Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. met with Commission staff regarding the Commission's proposal to allow voluntary use of the Next Generation TV transmission standard by broadcast television stations. A complete list of Commission staff attending the meeting is attached.

During the meeting, we discussed the potential benefits of allowing broadcasters to accelerate the deployment of Next Gen TV on unused, in-band channels. Unlike the DTV transition, when each broadcaster had an additional channel to ease the transition, in this case, broadcasters will be seeking to upgrade their technology while operating in a smaller broadcast band. We acknowledged that channels will not be available in every market. Nevertheless, allowing broadcasters to use available channels where available during Next Gen deployments will help both broadcasters and consumers. We also discussed filing priority with the staff. Although we believe that full-power licensees' use of unoccupied channels to help assure continued service should be entitled to a higher priority than low power television stations and TV translators as a matter of policy, we understand that the filing window for such stations displaced by the incentive auction will likely occur prior to full power stations assessing the need and availability of spectrum for Next Gen deployments. Therefore, full power broadcasters will not seek to displace accommodated low power stations for this purpose.

We also discussed our recommendation that the Commission adopt only the System Discovery and Signaling architecture (ATSC Standard A/321) into its rules. Adopting additional components of the ATSC standard into the FCC's rules could risk stifling

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innovation and forcing broadcasters to return to the Commission repeatedly for permission to make changes as the standard and associated technology evolves. The Commission can do all it needs to regulate the interference environment, and provide broadcasters with as much flexibility as possible, by using the existing interference parameters set forth in its current rules and by adopting only A/321.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Patrick McFadden
Associate General Counsel,
National Association of Broadcasters

cc: Meeting Attendees

Meeting Attendees

Michelle Carey
Martha Heller
Barbara Kreisman
Shaun Maher
John Gabrysch
Evan Baranoff
Kathy Berthot
Steven Broeckaert
Brendan Murray
Julius Knapp
Walter Johnston
Antonio Lavarello
Mark Colombo
Barbara Pavon
Martin Doczkat
Sophia Galleher