



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554  
JAN 15 1997

*Secretary's office*

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The Honorable Robert E. Andrews  
Member, U.S. House of Representatives  
506A White Horse Pike  
Haddon Heights, New Jersey 08035

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Congressman Andrews:

Thank you for your letter of December 9, 1996, on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Paul M. Lambrecht, Director of Mobile Intensive Care Unit, Underwood-Memorial Hospital, Woodbury, New Jersey. Mr. Lambrecht expresses concern regarding the possible effect on emergency services communications as a result of the Commission's recent proposal that establishes tentative policies for developing the initial digital television (DTV) channel allotments. Mr. Lambrecht expressed specific concern that the Commission's proposal to assign channel 21 to a television station currently licensed to Vineland, New Jersey might impact public safety operations in the Philadelphia area including the burden of additional costs associated with providing emergency services on alternative frequencies.

On July 25, 1996, the Commission proposed policies for allotting channels for DTV service and also provided a draft DTV Table of Allotments. (See Sixth Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in ~~MM Docket No. 87-268~~, FCC No. 96-317, released August 14, 1996). In that action, the Commission proposed to provide all existing television broadcasters with a second 6 MHz channel for digital broadcasting. The Commission's plan for allotment of DTV channels would maintain the channels currently used for land mobile operations in a number of major markets, including channels 19 and 20 in the Philadelphia and adjacent New Jersey region. While our draft DTV Table would provide for use of channel 21 in Vineland, New Jersey, we believe that engineering solutions are available for avoiding interference between DTV and land mobile operations on adjacent frequencies. At the same time, we understand the potential for interference between existing land mobile services and new DTV operations in the Philadelphia/New Jersey region. Please be assured that we are carefully evaluating all available alternatives for maintaining the interests of land mobile operators as well as broadcasters as we develop the DTV Table of Allotments.

We will also include a copy of your letter in MM Docket No. 87-268. Thank you again for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Smith  
Chief  
Office of Engineering and Technology

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABCDE

ROBERT E. ANDREWS  
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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ASIA

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3001**

December 9, 1996

Mr. Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554-3505

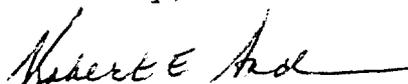
Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write to you on behalf of Mr. Paul M. Lambrecht, Director of Mobile Intensive Care Unit, Underwood-Memorial Hospital, 509 North Broad St., Woodbury, NJ 08096, who has contacted my office for assistance. Enclosed please find correspondence regarding the possible reassignment of current operating frequencies back to the broadcast industry. The Mobile Intensive Care Unit states that this proposed change would severely interfere with emergency services.

I would appreciate if you would afford the Underwood-Memorial Hospital's Mobile Intensive Care Unit all due consideration under the law in their efforts. In addition I would be interested in receiving your review and reply to this correspondence so that I may advise them accordingly.

Please forward your response to the attention of my aide, Ms. Susan Gronek, at 506A White Horse Pike, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035, (609) 546-5100, Fax: (609) 546-9529. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



ROBERT E. ANDREWS  
Member of Congress

REA: smg  
enc.

*MMA*  
*Reed*  
*6918*

REPLY TO:

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e-mail et:randrews@hr.house.gov

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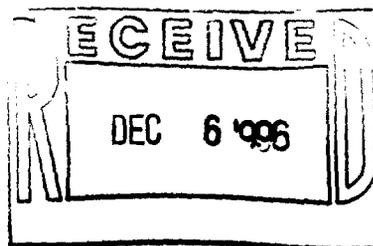


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UNDERWOOD-MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

**PARAMEDICS**  
MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

Paul M. Lambrecht, NREMT-P  
Program Director



November 22, 1996

Secretary, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street - NW  
Room 222  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Advanced Television Systems - MM Docket no. 87-268  
and their impact upon the existing Television Broadcast Service

Dear Chairman Hundt:

In a communication received from our regional public safety communications center we were informed of the effort being made to assign, the television industry, channels adjacent to those on which we currently operate. In addition, we understand that the possibility exists for the reassignment of our current operating frequencies back to the broadcast industry. The consideration of such a request could create a significant burden on the delivery of emergency medical services in the Gloucester County, New Jersey area.

Underwood-Memorial Hospital is a private, non-profit healthcare facility that provides advanced life support services to the residents of Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland Counties in southern New Jersey. Our paramedic units respond to over 16,000 emergency dispatches annually. The project operates nine emergency vehicles that contain 500 MHz radio communication devices, in addition to a 500 MHz. base station located in our Hospital's emergency department. Our units are dispatched via 500 MHz pagers and communicate via 500 MHz. portable and mobile radios. The capital expense associated with our operation is approaching one million dollars and is quite a significant part of the Hospital's operating budget.

Chairman. Hundt  
November 22, 1996

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The location of the television industry to Channel 21 or the reassignment of Channel 20 to the broadcast industry would have significant, detrimental effects to the operation of local emergency services. The effects would be felt both logistically and economically. Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services have operated on 500Mhz frequencies for many years and have invested significant dollars into the operation of an effective system. In a time where efforts are being made to control expenses in the health care arena, the cost of modifying our public safety communications system would ultimately be shifted to the consumer. In addition, there is no plan available that illustrates how local public safety communications would be managed in the event Channel 20 and 21 are assigned to the broadcast industry.

On behalf of the emergency medical services operating in Gloucester County and Underwood-Memorial Hospital's Mobile Intensive Care Unit, please accept my request to critically reconsider the impact such a change would have on public safety and the costs associated with providing effective and efficient emergency services. If I can be of further assistance as you proceed with your research please feel free to contact me at the address listed below. Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Paul M. Lambrecht, MHA, NREMT-P  
Director of MICU

cc: Mr. Steven W. Jackmuff, FACHE, President and CEO  
Mr. John L. Barnes, Vice President, Planning and Corporate Development  
Senator Bill Bradley, U.S. Senate  
Senator Frank R. Lautenberg, U.S. Senate  
Senator Raymond J. Zane, New Jersey Senate, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Assemblyman Gary Stuhltrager, New Jersey Assembly, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Assemblyman Jack Collins, New Jersey Assembly, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Representative Robert Andrews, New Jersey House of Representatives, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Freeholder Stephen R. Salvatore, Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders  
Freeholder Daniel Mangini, Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders  
Mr. James Flaherty, Director, Gloucester County Communications Center