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I grew up with off the air broadcast TV signals. I live in a rural area and had to replace my antenna and set it higher in elevation due to the nature of HDTV when it was implemented. On the old system it might be a snowy picture but I could still get important weather information when I needed it. With HDTV, fluctuations in signal strength makes it where it either works or does not so a lot of times in bad weather it does not work. I live about 30 miles slightly northwest of Huntsville AL. Their stations broadcast important to the minute broadcasts during times when we have tornadoes and includes my community because it is so close to Huntsville. My only other source of storm information are the Nashville stations via Dish Network or Internet via Hughesnet. Both of which, don't operate, after the storms begin. The Nashville stations are also not good at providing information for my community as it's around 95 miles to Nashville. Dish Network will also not let me select Huntsville as my local stations.

Even though I have battery backups for my tv and PC that I bought for weather related emergencies. The Satellite signals for Dishnetwork and Hughesnet drop out during heavy rain leaving me only my Off the air signals. It may be years before I get internet or cable tv or an equivalent broadband technology. In the meantime you want to minimize my off the air signals. This, in my opinion, sets rural Americans in almost a black out condition where any news or weather information no matter how important cannot be delivered. Before you pull the plug and try to sell our broadcasters bandwidth, you need to be sure that you can cover the negative effects on rural households.