

Dear FCC

I am writing about the grade B contour Area issue. I support revision to reflect clearer definition for the SHVA.

I also support a definition that would specify a specific minimum signal strength for any site within the area using a standard roof top antenna placed 5 feet above a subject's roof top without a rotor and in compromised position for reception of other local signals. I think the consumer should have the right to challenge local affiliate assertions due to the fact that rf signals are not of uniform strength at equal distances from the transmitters, due to topography, buildings, vegetation, weather, etc. Because of the not-100% predictability, I feel an "out" should be part of the definition. I believe every person who wants to watch the networks should have access. If anyone is denied access then the person or persons doing the denying should suffer the criminal legal consequences. If there is an option to challenge the predictable model, whatever it ends up being, then the predictable model becomes less important...merely a starting point.

I spent over ten years in the Air Force as a radio technician. I know how the government and many companies spend thousands of time the money it really takes to accomplish technical tasks. Utility companies routinely visit individual homes and businesses. Cable tv companies do it, and so can satellite tv and tv stations.

I see the solution as simple. Define a predictable model with specifics more realistic and less costly to the consumer. Allow challenges by the consumer no matter how close they are to the transmitter. If a consumer makes a challenge and he/she is in an area with high certainty of receiving adequate signal, make he/she pay for it. That would cover frivolous challenges. In fringe areas use the default "loser pays" strategy between the broadcasters and satellite companies. This way nobody will be denied a signal.

Signal tests at specific sites need not be expensive. A simple antenna (even compact w/an amplifier) on a tripod and maybe a telescoping mast connected to a spectrum analyzer, signal strength meter, or even a compact tv could be set up in a very short time to determine if a site is adequately served.