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99-289

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

November 9, 1999

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Sirs:

I am an Assistant State's Attorney for Macon County, Illinois. We would like to file the following comment with you regarding DA 99-1893, MM Docket No. 99-289, RM-9668. I have been attempting to file this comment through the Electronic Filing System Interactive Web Page, however, no matter which docket number I use, the system will not accept the proceeding number. Therefore please accept this faxed copy of the comment filed by messenger this date, as I am sending the original by overnight delivery.

I did submit the comment as an e-mail, when I found that the system would not accept the comment on the web page, but I was not sure if that was sufficient. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Rueter
Assistant State's Attorney

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of)	
)	DA 99-1893
Amendment of Section 73.622(b))	MM Docket No. 99-289
Table of Allotments)	RM-9668
Digital Television Broadcast Stations)	
(Champaign, Illinois))	

COMMENTS OF MACON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Macon County, Illinois, pursuant to Sections 1.415 and 1.420 of the Commission's Rules, hereby files comments on the Notice of Proposed Rule Making in the above-captioned proceeding. The Commission should deny Midwest Television, Inc.'s ("Midwest") request to substitute DTV Channel 5 for station WCIA(TV)'s assigned DTV Channel 48 in Champaign, Illinois. The substitution is against the public interest because Midwest's operation on Channel 5 would cause interference to public safety services operating in the area.

BACKGROUND

Macon County, Illinois is a unit of government providing police protection and services through the Macon County Sheriff's Office. Macon County holds a Land Mobile radio license from the FCC using the Call Sign KNEF739. Under this authority, Macon County operates four transmitters as an integral part of the communications system for the Macon County Sheriff's Office. These transmitters are as follows:

1. Warrensburg, IL Operating on 75.80 MHZ
2. Mount Zion, IL Operating on 75.58 MHZ
3. Macon, IL Operating on 75.74 MHZ
4. Oreana, IL Operating on 75.98 MHZ

The population of Macon County is about 120,000 citizens, and in many parts of Macon County, the Sheriff's Police is the primary law enforcement agency responsible for citizen safety.

THE USE OF CHANNEL 5 FOR DTV WILL INTERFERE WITH THE PUBLIC SAFETY IN MACON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Channel 5 operates on a frequency of 76 to 82 MHZ. DTV typically distributes a signal over a large band width. With the Sheriff's Police operating on frequencies in the 75 MHZ range, and particularly at 75.98 MHZ, (the transmitter located in Oreana, Illinois, which is the closest transmitter geographically to Champaign, Illinois), there is a strong likelihood that DTV broadcasts on Channel 5 will overpower the Sheriff's communications, especially with wattage outputs commonly associated with TV broadcasts.

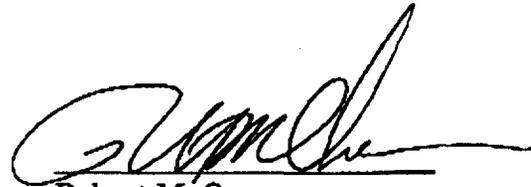
Should the Sheriff's Police lose access to communications due to interference from DTV on Channel 5, they would not be able to dispatch necessary personnel in response to citizens complaints of criminal activity or emergency situations. Clearly this affects the Sheriff's Police's ability to provide services for the public safety in Macon County, Illinois.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, the Commission should deny Midwest's proposal to substitute DTV Channel 5 for DTV Channel 48 in Champaign, Illinois.

Respectfully submitted,

Macon County, Illinois



Robert M. Owen
Chairman, Macon County Board
Macon County, Illinois
Macon County Board Office
141 South Main Street
5th Floor
Decatur, Illinois 62523

Dated: November 9, 1999

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Scott A. Rueter, Assistant States Attorney for Macon County, Illinois, hereby certify that on this 9th day of November, 1999, a copy of the foregoing comments of Macon County, Illinois in response to Midwest Television's request to substitute Channel 5 for station WCIA(TV)'s assigned DTV Channel 48 in Champaign, Illinois, was sent by first class U.S. Mail to the following:



Scott A. Rueter

Dated: November 9, 1999

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