

Mediacom

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY *Bruce Gluckman*
Vice President of Legal & Regulatory Affairs

August 6, 2001

Mr. Ron Parver
Assistant Division Chief
Federal Communications Commission
Cable Services Bureau
Consumer Protection and Competition Division
445 Twelfth Street, S.W., Room 4-A822
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: **CS Docket No. 98-120 /**
Cable System Channel Capacity and Retransmission Consent Agreements Survey

Dear Mr. Parver:

Enclosed please find a completed Cable System Channel Capacity and Retransmission Consent Agreements Survey ("Channel Capacity Survey") for Mediacom Communications Corporation and operating subsidiaries (collectively "Mediacom").

Mediacom is one of the ten largest MSOs in the United States. With only approximately 16,000 customers in 1996, Mediacom has experienced substantial growth. Upon completing our acquisition in July 2001 of cable systems in Iowa, Illinois, Georgia and Missouri from AT&T Broadband, Mediacom virtually doubled in size, now passing approximately 2.6 million homes and serving close to 1.6 million customers in 23 states.

Founded in 1995 to acquire and operate cable systems serving principally non-metropolitan markets in the United States, part of Mediacom's overall mission is to bridge the "digital divide" between larger metropolitan areas and the smaller cities and towns that we serve across the nation. To this end, Mediacom seeks to upgrade and rebuild our systems, which will enable us to offer advanced analog video, digital cable, high-speed Internet access and a variety of interactive and other communications products and services. To accomplish this, Mediacom estimates that, to date and over the next three years, we will have invested approximately a total of \$1 billion in our broadband distribution network, including the newly acquired AT&T systems.

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Mr. Ron Parver
August 6, 2001
Page 2

To justify this capital investment, Mediacom, like other cable operators, must ensure that our rebuilt and upgraded systems have the long-term capability to offer new products and services that result from rapidly changing technology. Although Mediacom's business strategy typically involves initially offering high-speed Internet access, Mediacom also plans to offer telephony, interactive and other advanced communications services, and is currently exploring other services, *e.g.*, virtual private networking for educational, governmental, commercial and industrial applications. It is significant that the exact capacity requirements necessary for particular services often depend on a number of variables, *e.g.*, system design, penetration, system traffic/concurrent usage.¹ This means that future capacity needs cannot be predicted precisely. While our systems may have capacity that exceeds present and near-term usage, they are designed to have adequate capacity to accommodate future products and services.

Mediacom, like other cable operators, must also maintain flexibility in capacity usage to accommodate changing market conditions and respond to competition posed by other MVPDs. Mediacom therefore must, in part, anticipate consumer trends and reserve adequate bandwidth to accommodate growing consumer demand for any one product or service. Only then can we fulfill our goal of providing our customers with the most desirable products and services.

In sum, Mediacom must build systems that will accommodate future services, consumer trends, changing market conditions, and the need for bandwidth efficiency. It therefore is critically important that Mediacom has the flexibility to determine the best and most efficient uses of our systems' capacity.

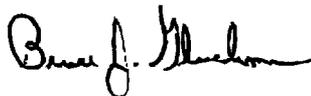
¹ Moreover, Mediacom must carefully plan and coordinate our present and future bandwidth usage to ensure the most efficient use of limited capacity.

Mr. Ron Parver
August 6, 2001
Page 3

Mediacom hopes the information provided above and as part of the enclosed Channel Capacity Survey proves helpful. Please note, however, that the information Mediacom provides above and in response to the Channel Capacity Survey represents estimates only. All information therefore remains subject to change.

Please call with any questions.

Very truly yours,



Bruce J. Gluckman
Vice President, Legal and Regulatory Affairs

Enclosures

Any statements provided above or as part of Mediacom's Channel Capacity Survey that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The words "plan," "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate" or other expressions that indicate future events and trends identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from historical results or those anticipated. For a discussion of such risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements, see the reports and documents Mediacom files from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Mediacom undertakes no obligation to (and expressly disclaims any such obligation to) publicly update or alter our forward-looking statements made in this document, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

EXPLANATIONS FOR RESPONSES TO CHANNEL CAPACITY SURVEY

The information Mediacom provides in response to the Channel Capacity Survey is representative of typical systems in each category. Responses include capacity currently in use as well as capacity intended for new products and services. All information remains subject to change.

QUESTION 1

Beginning in 2001, the percentages provided reflect Mediacom's acquisition of cable systems in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri and Georgia from AT&T Broadband.

QUESTION 2

1. The information provided does not necessarily reflect Mediacom's largest systems in terms of the number of subscribers, but rather is representative of our cable systems. We believe this approach will provide a more meaningful picture of our systems.

2. For 1999-2003, data relating to digital video reflect both broadcast and non-broadcast video programming. Mediacom includes pay-per-view/video-on-demand and digital music as part of the digital video column. The column for digital video reflects both Mediacom's immediate usage as well as our intended future usage.

3. The information provided reflects a snapshot of a Mediacom cable system. As a practical matter, the actual capacity usage varies from time to time and geographically as a result of programming and other changes.

4. The column for other downstream uses reflects both Mediacom's immediate usage as well as our intended future usage. While Mediacom's business strategy typically involves initially offering high-speed Internet access, Mediacom also plans to offer telephony, interactive and other advanced communications services, and is currently exploring other services, *e.g.*, virtual private networking for educational, governmental, commercial and industrial applications. This column also reflects bandwidth necessary for control channels and electronic program guides.

It is significant that the exact capacity requirements necessary for particular services often depend on a number of variables, *e.g.*, system design, penetration, system traffic/concurrent usage. This means that future capacity needs cannot be predicted precisely. In light of the need to build systems that will accommodate future services, consumer trends, changing market conditions, and the need for bandwidth efficiency, it is critically important that Mediacom has the flexibility to determine the best and most efficient uses of our systems' capacity.

QUESTION 3

1. For 1999-2003, data relating to HDTV and SDTV reflect both broadcast and non-broadcast video programming.
2. For SDTV program streams per 6 MHz, the data provided represent the maximum number of program streams, but the actual number of program streams may be less depending on the type of programming.

QUESTION 4

While Mediacom has no retransmission consent agreements that require digital carriage, it is not uncommon for such agreements to include Most-Favored-Nation language that would require Mediacom to begin carrying a broadcast station's digital signal at such time that Mediacom begins to offer another station's digital signal on the same system.

Questions on Cable System Capacity and Retransmission Consent Agreements

Question 1

Please complete the following table with the total number of subscribers served by all of your cable systems and your best estimates of the percentage of your total subscribers in each year that will be served by cable systems of the specified capacity. For each year the column percentages for the five system capacity classes ("Under 500 MHz" to ">750 MHz") should sum to 100.

TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS SERVED AND % DISTRIBUTION BY SYSTEM CAPACITY

Cable System Capacity	Yearend 1999		Yearend 2000		Yearend 2001		Yearend 2002		Yearend 2003	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Cable System Capacity										
>750 MHz				0%		12.3%		24.3%		36.3%
750 MHz		21%		36%		32.1%		32.1%		32.1%
Between 550 and 750 MHz				0%		1.5%		1.5%		1.5%
550 MHz		36%		36%		28.1%		28.1%		28.1%
Under 500 MHz		43%		26%		26%		14%		2%
Total		100%		100%		100%		100%		100%

Question 2

Please provide, for each of the five capacity classes and for each year, a breakdown of the total MHz usable for downstream transmissions. The breakdown should be based on a representative cable system in each size class, specifically the one with the largest number of subscribers. For the >750, <550, and 550-750 MHz capacity classes, please specify the capacity of the system for which the information is being provided.

If the total downstream capacity does not equal total capacity minus the bandwidth below 54 MHz, please explain the discrepancy. Also please note if any capacity above 54 MHz is used for upstream services. Please provide the total MHz expected to be used for analog video transmission, the total MHz expected to be used for digital video transmission, and the total MHz expected to be used for other purposes, and list the anticipated other services. The sum of the total MHz used for analog, digital, and other downstream services should equal total MHz usable for downstream transmissions.

MEDIACOM NOTE: For 1999-2003, data relating to digital video reflect both broadcast and non-broadcast video programming. Mediacom includes pay-per-view/video-on-demand and digital music as part of the digital video column.

Year 1999

Capacity of Representative Cable System	Specific Capacity	Total MHz usable for downstream transmissions	Total MHz expected to be used for analog video	Total MHz expected to be used for digital video	Total MHz expected to be used for other downstream services+
>750 MHz*	N/A				
750 MHz		696	360	156	180
550-750 MHz**	N/A				
550 MHz		496	360	108	28
< 550 MHz***	300	246	222	24	-

+Identify any other downstream services - See narrative

Year 2000

Capacity of Representative Cable System	Specific Capacity	Total MHz usable for downstream transmissions	Total MHz expected to be used for analog video	Total MHz expected to be used for digital video	Total MHz expected to be used for other downstream services+
>750 MHz*	N/A				
750 MHz		696	360	156	180
550-750 MHz**	N/A				
550 MHz		496	360	108	28
< 550 MHz***	300	246	222	24	-

+Identify any other downstream services - See narrative

Year 2001

Capacity of Representative Cable System	Specific Capacity	Total MHz usable for downstream transmissions	Total MHz expected to be used for analog video	Total MHz expected to be used for digital video	Total MHz expected to be used for other downstream services+
>750 MHz*	870	816	360	156	300
750 MHz		696	360	156	180
550-750 MHz**	625	571	360	156	55
550 MHz		496	360	108	28
< 550 MHz***	300	246	222	24	-

+Identify any other downstream services - See narrative

Year 2002

Capacity of Representative Cable System	Specific Capacity	Total MHz usable for downstream transmissions	Total MHz expected to be used for analog video	Total MHz expected to be used for digital video	Total MHz expected to be used for other downstream services+
>750 MHz*	870	816	360	156	300
750 MHz		696	360	156	180
550-750 MHz**	625	571	360	156	55
550 MHz		496	360	108	28
< 550 MHz***	300	246	222	24	-

+Identify any other downstream services - See narrative

Year 2003

Capacity of Representative Cable System	Specific Capacity	Total MHz usable for downstream transmissions	Total MHz expected to be used for analog video	Total MHz expected to be used for digital video	Total MHz expected to be used for other downstream services+
>750 MHz*	870	816	360	156	300
750 MHz		696	360	156	180
550-750 MHz**	625	571	360	156	55
550 MHz		496	360	108	28
< 550 MHz***	450	396	306	72	18

+Identify any other downstream services -See narrative

* fill in a capacity greater than 750 MHz if applicable, or enter NA if no systems in the >750 MHz category

** fill in a capacity between 550 and 750 MHz if applicable, or enter NA if no systems in the 550-750 MHz category

*** fill in a capacity below 550 MHz if applicable, or enter NA if no systems in the <550 MHz category

Please explain here any discrepancies between capacity usable for downstream transmissions and total capacity minus the bandwidth below 54 MHz.

Question 3

For each capacity class and year entered in question 2, please provide (i) information on the digital modulation techniques you intend to use and (ii) a further breakdown of the total MHz expected to be used for downstream digital video transmission. To answer this question, use the same representative cable systems that you used in question 2. What modulation technique do you expect to use (e.g., 64 QAM, 256 QAM)? How many MHz do you anticipate devoting to HDTV transmissions and how many HDTV program streams do you anticipate transmitting in each 6 MHz of spectrum devoted to that purpose? How many MHz do you anticipate devoting to standard definition television program streams and how many such program streams do you anticipate transmitting in each 6 MHz of spectrum devoted to that purpose?

NOTE: If you plan to use different modulation techniques on a single system or on different systems in the same capacity class, please explain below. If the number of HDTV or SDTV program streams per 6 MHz is expected to vary, please indicate a typical figure in the table and explain the range of variation below.

YEAR 1999

Capacity of Representative Cable System	Specific Capacity	Total MHz expected to be used for digital video transmission (from question 2)	Modulation technique	MHz expected to be devoted to HDTV transmissions (broadcast or nonbroadcast)	HDTV Program streams per 6 MHz	MHz expected to be devoted to standard definition video	SDTV program streams per 6 MHz
>750 MHz*	N/A						
750 MHz		156	64 QAM	0	1	156	12
550-750 MHz**	N/A						
550 MHz		108	64 QAM	0	1	108	12
<550 MHz***	300	24	64 QAM	0	1	24	12

YEAR 2000

Capacity of Representative Cable System	Specific Capacity	Total MHz expected to be used for digital video transmission (from question 2)	Modulation technique	MHz expected to be devoted to HDTV transmissions (broadcast or nonbroadcast)	HDTV Program streams per 6 MHz	MHz expected to be devoted to standard definition video	SDTV program streams per 6 MHz
>750 MHz ^a	N/A						
750 MHz		156	64 QAM	0	1	156	12
550-750 MHz ^{aa}	N/A						
550 MHz		108	64 QAM	0	1	108	12
<550 MHz ^{aaa}	300	24	64 QAM	0	1	24	12

YEAR 2001

Capacity of Representative Cable System	Specific Capacity	Total MHz expected to be used for digital video transmission (from question 2)	Modulation technique	MHz expected to be devoted to HDTV transmissions (broadcast or nonbroadcast)	HDTV Program streams per 6 MHz	MHz expected to be devoted to standard definition video	SDTV program streams per 6 MHz
>750 MHz ^a	870	156	64 QAM	0	1	156	12
750 MHz		156	64 QAM	0	1	156	12
550-750 MHz ^{aa}	625	156	64 QAM	0	1	156	12
550 MHz		108	64 QAM	0	1	108	12
<550 MHz ^{aaa}	300	24	64 QAM	0	1	24	12

YEAR 2002

Capacity of Representative Cable System	Specific Capacity	Total MHz expected to be used for digital video transmission (from question 2)	Modulation technique	MHz expected to be devoted to HDTV transmissions (broadcast or nonbroadcast)	HDTV Program streams per 6 MHz	MHz expected to be devoted to standard definition video	SDTV program streams per 6 MHz
>750 MHz*	870	156	64 QAM	30	1	126	12
750 MHz		156	64 QAM	30	1	126	12
550-750 MHz**	625	156	64/256 QAM	30	1	126	12/18
550 MHz		108	64/256 QAM	30	1	78	12/18
<550 MHz***	300	24	64/256 QAM	0	1	24	12/18

YEAR 2003

Capacity of Representative Cable System	Specific Capacity	Total MHz expected to be used for digital video transmission (from question 2)	Modulation technique	MHz expected to be devoted to HDTV transmissions (broadcast or nonbroadcast)	HDTV Program streams per 6 MHz	MHz expected to be devoted to standard definition video	SDTV program streams per 6 MHz
>750 MHz*	870	156	QAM/VSB	48	1	108	12/18
750 MHz		156	QAM/VSB	48	1	108	12/18
550-750 MHz**	625	156	QAM/VSB	48	1	108	12/18
550 MHz		108	QAM/VSB	48	1	78	12/18
<550 MHz***	450	72	64/256 QAM	30	1	42	12/18

* fill in a capacity greater than 750 MHz if applicable, or enter NA if no systems in the >750 MHz category

** fill in a capacity between 550 and 750 MHz if applicable, or enter NA if no systems in the 550-750 MHz category

*** fill in a capacity below 550 MHz if applicable, or enter NA if no systems in the <550 MHz category

Please describe here any situations in which you plan to use different modulation techniques on a single system or on different systems in the same capacity class. **Broadcast HDTV may be carried using 8 or 16 VSB.**

If the number of HDTV program streams per 6 MHz is expected to vary, please explain the range of variation here.

Question 4

On Chart 4A below, please list the cable systems and television stations for which you have negotiated retransmission consent agreements that include carriage of digital transmissions by the station. For each television station, please include in parentheses the network affiliation if any. Please include, if known, the capacity of each system in MHz, the Designated Market Area ("DMA") in which the station is located, when digital carriage is scheduled to commence, the modulation technique you intend to use (e.g., 8 VSB, 64 QAM, 256 QAM), the format (480P, 720P, 1080i, something else) of the signal as received from the broadcaster, and the format that you plan to use for retransmission through the system to subscribers.

On Chart 4B below, please provide the best information available at this time on pending retransmission consent negotiations, if possible. If you have pending negotiations with respect to more than 10 systems, please provide information for the five largest and the five smallest systems, measured by number of subscribers.

Note: If you have signed digital retransmission agreements with a television station for more than one cable system, please make a separate entry for each cable system.

Please use additional pages if necessary for response.

CHART 4A: COMPLETED RETRANSMISSION CONSENT AGREEMENTS See narrative

DMA	Television Station (with affiliation status)	Cable System	System Capacity (MHz)	Date Carriage Commenced or is to Commence	Modulation Technique	Broadcast Transmission Format	Retransmission Format	Number of Stations in DMA now transmitting a digital signal

CHART 4B: RETRANSMISSION CONSENT AGREEMENTS IN NEGOTIATION

None

DMA	Television Station (with affiliation status)	Cable System	System Capacity (MHz)	Date Carriage Commenced or is to Commence	Modulation Technique	Broadcast Transmission Format	Retransmission Format	Number of Stations in DMA now transmitting a digital signal