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August 29, 2001

**BY HAND DELIVERY**

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Counter TW-A325  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

AUG 29 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**Re: *Ex Parte* Presentation Regarding  
MM Docket No. 00-39 (Review of the Commission's Rules and Policies  
Affecting the Conversion to Digital Television) and  
CS Docket No. 98-120 (Carriage of Digital Television Broadcast Signals)**

Dear Ms. Salas:

On August 28, 2001, Paul McTear, Rebecca Bryan and David Folsom of Raycom Media, Inc. ("Raycom") and Raycom's counsel, Jonathan Blake, attended meetings with Roy Stewart, Barbara Kreisman, Clay Pendarvis, Keith Larson and John Morgan of the Mass Media Bureau; David Brown, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Martin; Commissioner Copps and his Legal Advisor Susanna Zwerling; Paul Gallant, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Tristani; Stacy Robinson, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Abernathy; and Susan Eid, Legal Advisor to Chairman Powell. Raycom counsel Jennifer Johnson also attended the meetings with Mr. Brown, Commissioner Copps and Ms. Zwerling, and Mr. Gallant. Raycom counsel Ellen Goodman also attended the meetings with Ms. Robinson and Ms. Eid.

The purpose of these meetings was to discuss generally Raycom's history, its ownership structure, its goals and approach to broadcasting, and its challenges. The meetings included a discussion of Raycom's progress in the digital transition. Raycom takes pride in this progress, although in a handful of markets (out of more than 30), it has encountered problems that will require brief extensions of the construction deadlines. Raycom pointed out the importance of an effective and prompt transition for broadcasters such as Raycom who have constructed their DTV facilities in accordance with the FCC's build-out schedule, because of the major year-in-year-out expense of financing construction costs and operating stations in both analog and digital mode. Raycom emphasized the importance of cable carriage and the availability of television sets that include well-performing digital tuners for the success of the DTV transition. The discussion also touched on the desirability of ramping up digital facilities to full or maximized service areas over a period of time, rather than to meet a hard and unrealistic deadline that requires

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Ms. Magalie Roman Salas

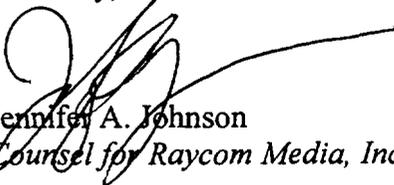
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stations either to operate at full facilities (and incur the substantial expenses associated with that) well before viewers in the marketplace have the equipment to enjoy the DTV service or else lose protection for the full or maximized service area.

An original and three copies of this *ex parte* notice (two copies for each docket) are being submitted in compliance with the Commission's rules, with copies to those who attended the meetings.

Sincerely,



Jennifer A. Johnson  
*Counsel for Raycom Media, Inc.*

cc: Commissioner Copps  
Susan Eid  
David Brown  
Paul Gallant  
Stacy Robinson  
Susanna Zwerling  
Roy Stewart  
Barbara Kreisman  
Clay Pendarvis  
Keith Larson  
John Morgan