



**Merrill S. Spiegel**  
Vice President  
Government Affairs

July 11, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20054

Re: **Ex Parte** – In re: Improved Model for Predicting the Broadcast  
Television Field Strength Received at Individual Locations  
(ET Doc. No. 00-11)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, DIRECTV, Inc. ("DIRECTV") submits this letter to report that on July 10, 2002, the undersigned spoke with Paul Margie of Commissioner Copps' office regarding signal testing.

Specifically, DIRECTV stated its support for a change in the rules to permit testing of over-the-air signal strengths to be done at the time of installation. In addition, DIRECTV explained the difficulties it has encountered in identifying independent third parties willing and technically capable of performing signal strength tests. Moreover, DIRECTV has found that many customers who request signal strength tests are predicted by the ILLR to receive signal strengths in excess of the Grade B threshold level, and are unable to identify geographic or other barriers to receipt of broadcast signals. Yet, these customers insist under a signal strength test, despite the high degree of likelihood that they will be found ineligible for receipt of distant network signals. This creates a problem that needs to be addressed.

One copy of this *ex parte* notice is being filed electronically with the Commission. If you have any questions concerning this notice, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Merrill S. Spiegel".

Merrill S. Spiegel

cc: Paul Margie, Office of Commissioner Copps