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APTS

LOCAL SERVICE NATIONAL VOICE

ORIGINAL

September 6, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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SEP - 6 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Ex Parte Notice
Docket 98-120

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Association of America's Public Television Stations ("APTS") hereby notifies the Commission of the following ex parte meeting in the above-captioned proceeding. On August 26, 2002, John M. Lawson, President and CEO, APTS; Marilyn Mohrman-Gillis, Vice President, Policy and Legal Affairs, APTS; Katherine Lauderdale, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, PBS; Paul Greco, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, PBS; and Jonathan Blake, Covington & Burling, met with Susan Eid, Legal Advisor to Chairman Michael K. Powell.

At this meeting, we reviewed the positions reflected in our comments, reply comments and ex parte submissions in this docket on the interpretation of "primary video." We emphasized that an interpretation of "primary video" to mean all free over the air multicast program streams was consistent with the government and public interest, was the preferred reading of the statute, and raised no serious constitutional issues.

Attached are materials that were provided to the participants of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Mohrman-Gillis

Marilyn Mohrman-Gillis
Vice President, Policy and Legal Affairs

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QUICK FACTS

Newest PTV station(s) to go digital	WFSG-DT/Ch.56 Panama City, Florida
Total number of PTV digital stations	76
Percentage of public stations broadcasting a DTV signal	21%
Potential coverage by PTV's 76 digital signals	55.30%

PTV DIGITAL FUNDING

Source	Amount
State Funding:	\$476,202,000
Private:**	\$261,390,000
Other Sources:	\$33,797,338
Sub Total (Non-federal)	\$771,389,338
CPB Digital	\$45,000,000
PTFP:	\$60,300,000
Estimate for 2002 PTFP**	\$35,000,000
Sub Total (Federal)	\$140,300,000
Total	\$911,689,338

* Private funding includes foundation, corporation and individual sources.

** Original notifications by NTIA/PTFP listed total grants for digital conversion projects from 1998-2001 totaling \$78 million. Recent internal audits of PTFP by NTIA have led to a reclassification of many FY98-01 digital grants and led to revised total PTFP digital figure to \$60.3 million FY98-01.

INFORMING ...



The South Carolina ETV Network currently offers gavel-to-gavel coverage of the South Carolina General Assembly through over-the-air digital multicasting. In addition, SCETV offers an educational channel, featuring a combination of PBS You, college courses from University of South Carolina and Clemson University, and original educational programming. A "South Carolina Channel" is in development; featuring regional arts festivals lecture series, book festivals, and university events. A 2003 launch date expected.

EDUCATING ...



WCMU (Mount Pleasant, MI) is considering a partnership with the state's other PTV stations to develop a "Michigan Virtual University" (MVU) multicasting channel. Programming on this channel would feature regional college credit telecourses with interactive components and Internet courses. The state has already set up the infrastructure for MVU by maintaining a digital clearinghouse that could house the telecourses for this channel.



WMEC (Macomb, IL) WMEC will partner with the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) to produce the Lifelong Learning Channel that will feature college credit telecourses and non-credit telecourses, continuing education, and job training opportunities. The station will also work with a consortium of five local colleges and universities to develop this programming. This channel has been developed with funding from IBHE, who has given the station three grants totaling \$405,000, including funding for a digital master control that will allow for multicasting.

SERVING COMMUNITIES ...



KBDI (Broomfield, CO) plans to multicast at least four channels in standard definition television during daytime hours. This includes a *Legislative and Political News Service* that will provide continuous, in-depth coverage of state, county and local governments; a *Latino Initiative Channel* for the Spanish-speaking and bilingual community which will emphasize news, public affairs and social and cultural events; a *Local Arts & Cultural Channel* where programming will feature regional cultural events and productions; and an *Environmental Affairs Channel* will feature programming on outdoors, wilderness and environmental affairs.



WTVP (Peoria, IL) plans to use its multicasting capabilities to increase its education and public affairs programming, including:

- a pre-kindergarten through high school service aimed at schools throughout the area
- a post secondary channel to serve the needs of area colleges and universities
- a lifelong learning channel, programmed and operated by local educational agencies, to serve the needs of adult learners.



APTS
Association of Public
Television Stations

Corporation
for Public
Broadcasting