

PaulHastings

Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP

1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 10th Floor, Washington, DC 20004-2400  
telephone 202-508-9500 / facsimile 202-508-9700 / internet www.paulhastings.com

Atlanta  
Beijing  
Hong Kong  
London  
Los Angeles  
New York  
Orange County  
San Francisco  
Stamford  
Tokyo  
Washington, D.C.

(202) 508-9522  
larrysidman@paulhastings.com

May 8, 2003

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte Communication in MB Docket 03-15 (Second Periodic Review of the Commission's Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion to Digital Television), CS Docket No. 97-80 (Commercial Availability of Navigation Devices) and PP Docket No. 00-67 (Compatibility Between Cable Systems and Consumer Electronics Equipment).

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Wednesday, May 7, 2003, Lawrence R. Sidman of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP; and David Arland, Director of Worldwide Public and Trade Relations, Consumer Products, with Thomson Inc.; met with Johanna Mikes, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Adelstein, to discuss issues in the above-referenced proceedings.

In the meeting, Thomson stressed the importance to the DTV transition of: (1) rapid Commission adoption of proposed regulations set forth in the "Plug and Play" agreement for unidirectional digital cable-ready receivers (and other devices); and (2) broadcaster transmission of DTV signals at power levels adequate to reach most viewers within their service areas. Thomson discussed the clear relationships between expedited FCC action on these issues and the looming July 1, 2004, initial deadline for integration of ATSC reception capability in large screen DTV receivers. Thomson urged that immediate action in these two areas is critical to meeting consumers' expectations for the DTV transition, facilitating access to DTV and HDTV programming both over-the-air and via cable, thereby sparking demand for DTV products.

Thomson's views tracked its comments filed in the Second Periodic Review of the DTV Transition, and Thomson associated itself with comments and reply comments filed by the Consumer Electronics Association in the "Plug and Play" proceeding.

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
May 8, 2003  
Page 2

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1206, one copy of this letter is being filed electronically. Please direct any questions concerning this matter to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lawrence R. Sidman".

Lawrence R. Sidman  
Partner

cc: Johanna Mikes