FCC eases media ownership rules

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FCC Chairman Michael Powell (left) and commission member Michael J. Copps listened to opening remarks before voting yesterday. *Kevin Lamarque / Reuters*

Overhaul approved in 3-2 partisan vote

By Stephen Labaton
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The Federal Communications Commission yesterday narrowly approved the most important changes to the nation's media ownership rules in a generation.

By a partisan 3-2 vote, the Republican-controlled commission relaxed many of the most significant restrictions on the ability of broadcast and newspaper conglomerates to both expand into new markets and extend their reach in the cities where they already have a presence.

The decision will permit a company to own as many as three television stations, eight radio stations, a daily newspaper and a cable operator in the largest U.S. cities.

It also will permit the networks to buy more television affiliates.

The old rules had restricted a company from owning both a newspaper and broadcast station, prohibited a company from owning more than two television stations, and restricted a company from owning more than a total of eight broadcasters.

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Thanks a lot! This proves again, in yet another way, how eager the GOP controlled decisions work for big-biz and rarely, if ever, for the general public.

10/

Federal Communications Commission

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