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March 19, 2004

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20551

RE: *Ex Parte* Presentations in PP Docket No. 00-67 (Compatibility Between Cable Systems and Consumer Electronics Equipment) and MB Docket No. 02-230 (Digital Broadcast Content Protection).

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This is to notify the Office of the Secretary that on March 18, 2004, Mitch Singer of Sony Pictures Entertainment and Alicia Smith of the Smith-Free Group, met with the below listed FCC staff members:

Media Bureau:

Rick Chessen
John Gabrysch
Alison Greenwald
Thomas Horan
Danielle Jafari
William Johnson
Susan Mort
John Wong

Office of Strategic Planning & Policy Analysis:

Amy Nathan

Office of Engineering & Technology:

Bruce Franca
Alan Stillwell

The meeting covered material submitted to the FCC in the Reply Comments of the Motion Picture Association of America et al on March 15, 2004, CS Docket No. 97-80, PP Docket No. 00-67, Second FNPRM, and Reply Comments of the Motion Picture Association of America et al, MB Docket No. 02-230, FNPRM, of the same date.

The *ex parte* presentations focused on the following points:

- Localization: SPE supports localization as a key requirement for any approved Table A technology. While SPE is not precluding the eventual implementation of secure remote access, SPE believes that numerous issues should be identified and resolved before any Table A technology is approved that enables such remote access. SPE suggested that perhaps a further inquiry should be issued to determine and examine the potential problems and parameters when technology enables consumers to redistribute digital broadcast content.
- Market-based Criteria v Functional Criteria: Market-based criteria as proposed by the MPAA should be adopted for authorizing new output and recording technologies in connection with protecting DTV content against unauthorized redistribution. SPE voiced concern that if functional criteria was adopted, the current marketplace negotiations would be jeopardized, since there would no longer be the need for technology providers to seek content provider approval in connection with adopting new technologies. Market-based criteria is and has been working, as evidenced by numerous technologies that have been submitted for inclusion on Table A. Content scrambling system (CSS), Digital Transmission Copy Protection (5C), High Definition Copy Protection (HDCP), Magic Gate Type R Secure Video Recording (MGRSVR), Blue Ray Disc Recordable (BDRE), and DVHS were all negotiated via a market-based approach.
- Selectable Output Control: SPE raised the possibility that without revising the Plug and Play rules to require selectable output control capability in digital-ready set-top boxes, the ability to seek a waiver to enable such selectable output control for new business models could be meaningless. In all likelihood, selectable output control capability will not be built into digital-ready set-top boxes without such a requirement.

No documents were provided.

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Federal Communications Commission Rules, this original and one copy are provided to your office. A copy of this notice is being distributed to the parties mentioned above.

Sincerely,



Hope J. Boonshaft