Median of selected monthly owner costs	(X)	(X)			brief
With a mortgage (dollars)	833	(X)	1,088	map	
Not mortgaged (dollars)	242	(X)	295		

(X) Not applicable.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3)

ATTACHMENT H

Montgomery: Economy

Ads by Google

Air Force Ringtone - Send this ringtone to your phone right now, at no charge! (spicymint.com)

2006 Economic Forecast - See what Investment U projects for the economy & stock market in 2006 (www.investment-u.com)

Maxwell AFB Homes - For Sale by Owner Homes Houses for Rent (www.militarybyowner.com)

Major Industries and Commercial Activity

Government at the local, state, and federal levels plays a major role in Montgomery's economy. It makes up one-fourth of the work force and lends a strong stability to the local economy. The local colleges and universities make an important contribution to the economy, as does the major military presence of Maxwell Gunter Air Force Base. The relatively new addition of automotive companies to central Alabama has created new opportunities for workers and suppliers.

Montgomery's location in the center of a zone of rich black soil that stretches across Alabama makes it an important processing and shipping center for cotton, dairy, and other farm products. The city also boasts a large livestock market. The city's role as a regional trade center is firmly established, and it serves as a wholesaling and distribution gateway to the entire southeast.

Among the variety of Montgomery's industries are metal fabrication, food processing, lumber processing, and furniture production. Sand, gravel, grain, and chemicals are transported north and south via barge from the Montgomery region.

More than 135 information technology (IT) companies were based in Montgomery in 2005. The IT industry in Montgomery has an estimated $1 billion per year economic impact and accounts for approximately 14,000 workers in private, federal and state sectors. In addition, the tourism industry, which annually pours more than $350 million into the local economy, employed more than 11,000 people.

Items and goods produced: food, lumber, furniture, metal products, textiles, brick, glass, printing/publishing, plastics, software engineering products

Incentive Programs—New and Existing Companies

Local programs

The Montgomery Area Center for Entrepreneurial Development provides help to small businesses with everything from startup and counseling to non-conventional financing, training, recognition, and networking. An offshoot of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, the center also provides affordable space at below-market rates for startup entrepreneurs. Manufacturing/distribution projects may receive exemptions for up to 10 years from *ad valorem* taxes other than those levied for educational purposes.

State programs

The City of Montgomery is an Urban Enterprise Zone, which results in state tax and nontax incentives that are some of the best in the United States. Montgomery has been designated as a general purpose foreign trade zone, which provides payment deferrals or cancellation for businesses in the zone. New or expanding businesses may also qualify for grants of money for carrying out site improvements.

Alabama offers a full gamut of financial incentives aimed at promoting economic growth. These include payroll tax breaks, industrial revenue bonds for land, building, and equipment for new and expanding plants. The Alabama Economic Development Loan Program can be used to purchase land, buildings, machinery, and equipment. There are also three revolving loan funds. Business loan guarantees are available to firms that create or retain permanent jobs. The Capital Investment Tax Credit program is available to new and expanding businesses involved in manufacturing, warehousing, research, and computer services. Other innovative programs include the State Industrial Site Preparation Grant Program and the Public Works and Development Facilities Grant Program.

Job training programs

The Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT) program provides a total delivery system for screening and selecting trainees and for designing and implementing training for any new or expanding manufacturer in the state of Alabama. The program provides a full range of customized technical training programs that are free to employers and trainees. Thirty-six mobile training units go directly to the employer site to provide classroom and hands-on training. The program's AIDT project supports the development and enhancement of the city's professional Information Technology community as well as its aerospace, chemical industry, and other area manufacturers. The Workforce Investment Act helps defer the costs of hiring and training new employees for private businesses.

Development Projects

In 2005, plans were underway for a major overhauling of the Montgomery Riverfront district. The City of Montgomery, the Montgomery Riverfront Development Foundation, and the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce had formed an alliance and were working together towards this end. The riverfront plan consists of a $29 million upgrade of the current civic center and a new $53 million hotel in the heart of the district. Those efforts will join the new amphitheatre, stadium, and riverwalk, and combine with an already thriving entertainment district. In addition, the city's revitalization efforts will include a new intermodal transportation center at Union Center. The center, funded in part by federal money to the tune of $8.1 million, will serve as a hub for the transportation system and the downtown trolley system.

In 2004 construction of four new shopping centers began under the development of Aronov Realty Management. Each new center is to be anchored by a Publix grocery store. The four centers will offer 500,000 square feet of retail and business space. In 2004 the Headquarters Standards Systems Group (SSG) broke ground at Maxwell Airforce Base, Gunter Annex. SSG's new $12.6 million 51,450-square-foot Integrated Operational Support Facility is expected to be completed in 2006.

Also in 2004 plastics manufacturer Webster Industries expanded, opening a second operating facility and adding 300 new jobs. Production at Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama is expected to begin in spring 2005. Hyundai's Montgomery plant will occupy 1,720 acres and pump out an estimated 300,000 vehicles and engines, as well as bring 2,000 jobs to the state.

Economic Development Information: Montgomery Community Development Department, PO Box 1111, Montgomery AL 36101; telephone (334)241-2996. Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, 41 Commerce Street, PO Box 79, Montgomery, AL 36101; telephone (334)834-5200

Commercial Shipping

Montgomery is served by 48 motor freight carriers. The Norfolk Southern Company and CSX railroads provide transport opportunities for many local industries. The Alabama River provides a nine-foot channel for barges to cross into the Gulf of Mexico through the port of Mobile. Alabama State Docks in Mobile, accessible via waterway from Montgomery, offer 1000-ton capacity facilities inside a protected barge-turning basin. Barge transportation to the Great Lakes is available through the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.

Labor Force and Employment Outlook

In 2000 a corporate research group that specializes in the study of job creation named Montgomery as one of the nation's top 25 small metropolitan area "hot spots" for entrepreneurial growth. Montgomery's job growth today relies on the city's burgeoning tourism industry as well as its resident air force base, universities, and information technology industry.

The following is a summary of data regarding the Montgomery metropolitan area labor force, 2003 annual averages.

Size of nonagricultural labor force: 163,300

Number of workers employed in . . .

construction and mining: 8,500

manufacturing: 15,900

trade, transportation and utilities: 30,400

information: 2,600

financial activities: 10,400

professional and business services: 17,200

educational and health services: 17,800

leisure and hospitality: 13,600

other services: 8,200

government: 38,300

Average hourly earnings of production workers employed in manufacturing: $13.56 (statewide)

Unemployment rate: 5.1% (November 2004)

Largest employers	Number of employees
Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base	12,700
State of Alabama	9,500
Baptist Health	4,300
Montgomery Public Schools	3,700
ALFA Insurance Companies	2,568
City of Montgomery	2,500
Jackson Hospital & Clinic	1,300
Rheem Manufacturing Co.	1,150

Largest employers	*Number of employees*
Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base	12,700
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Montgomery Public Schools	3,700
ALFA Insurance Companies	2,568
City of Montgomery	2,500
Jackson Hospital & Clinic	1,300
Rheem Manufacturing Co.	1,150

Cost of Living

The following is a summary of data regarding several key cost of living factors for the Montgomery area.

2004 (3rd Quarter) ACCRA Average House Price:$241,263

2004 (3rd Quarter) ACCRA Cost of Living Index: 94.3 (U.S. Average = 100.0)

State income tax rate: 2.0 to 5.0%

State sales tax rate: 4.0%

Local income tax rate: None

Local sales tax rate: 3.5% city, 2.5% county

Property tax rate: $3.45 per $100 of assessed value

Economic Information: Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, 41 Commerce Street, PO Box 79, Montgomery, AL 36101; telephone (334)834-5200

« Montgomery: Municipal Government

Montgomery: Education and Research »

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ATTACHMENT I

FACT SHEET

Montgomery County, Alabama

View a Fact Sheet for a **race, ethnic, or ancestry group**

Census 2000 Demographic Profile Highlights:

General Characteristics - show more >>	Number	Percent	U.S.		
Total population	223,510			map	brief
Male	106,359	47.6	49.1%	map	brief
Female	117,151	52.4	50.9%	map	brief
Median age (years)	33.5	(X)	35.3	map	brief
Under 5 years	15,472	6.9	6.8%	map	
18 years and over	165,864	74.2	74.3%		
65 years and over	26,307	11.8	12.4%	map	brief
One race	221,407	99.1	97.6%		
White	109,180	48.8	75.1%	map	brief
Black or African American	108,583	48.6	12.3%	map	brief
American Indian and Alaska Native	568	0.3	0.9%	map	brief
Asian	2,217	1.0	3.6%	map	brief
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	72	0.0	0.1%	map	brief
Some other race	787	0.4	5.5%	map	
Two or more races	2,103	0.9	2.4%	map	brief
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	2,665	1.2	12.5%	map	brief
Household population	211,467	94.6	97.2%	map	brief
Group quarters population	12,043	5.4	2.8%	map	
Average household size	2.46	(X)	2.59	map	brief
Average family size	3.06	(X)	3.14	map	
Total housing units	95,437			map	
Occupied housing units	86,068	90.2	91.0%		brief
Owner-occupied housing units	55,137	64.1	66.2%	map	
Renter-occupied housing units	30,931	35.9	33.8%	map	brief
Vacant housing units	9,369	9.8	9.0%	map	

Social Characteristics - show more >>	Number	Percent	U.S.		
Population 25 years and over	141,342				
High school graduate or higher	113,437	80.3	80.4%	map	brief
Bachelor's degree or higher	40,294	28.5	24.4%	map	
Civilian veterans (civilian population 18 years and over)	23,885	14.6	12.7%	map	brief
Disability status (population 5 years and over)	43,243	21.8	19.3%	map	brief
Foreign born	4,443	2.0	11.1%	map	brief
Male, Now married, except separated (population 15 years and over)	42,924	52.2	56.7%		brief
Female, Now married, except separated (population 15 years and over)	41,518	44.6	52.1%		brief
Speak a language other than English at home (population 5 years and over)	8,323	4.0	17.9%	map	brief

Economic Characteristics - show more >>	Number	Percent	U.S.		
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	105,480	61.3	63.9%		brief
Mean travel time to work in minutes (workers 16 years and over)	20.2	(X)	25.5	map	brief
Median household income in 1999 (dollars)	35,962	(X)	41,994	map	
Median family income in 1999 (dollars)	44,669	(X)	50,046	map	
Per capita income in 1999 (dollars)	19,358	(X)	21,587	map	
Families below poverty level	7,681	13.5	9.2%	map	brief
Individuals below poverty level	36,809	17.3	12.4%	map	

Housing Characteristics - show more >>	Number	Percent	U.S.		
Single-family owner-occupied homes	48,669				brief
Median value (dollars)	87,700	(X)	119,600	map	brief

Median of selected monthly owner costs	(X)	(X)			brief
With a mortgage (dollars)	833	(X)	1,088	map	
Not mortgaged (dollars)	242	(X)	295		

(X) Not applicable.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3)

ATTACHMENT J

MEDIA TRENDS TRACK

TV Basics: Cable & VCR Households

In the late 1940s an appliance dealer in western Pennsylvania put a large TV antenna on top of a mountain and brought TV signals to the valley below. By 1970 cable was in only 6.7% of the TV households. In 1975 HBO sent down signals via satellite, cable TV entered a new era, and by 1990 penetration was up to 56.4%. Currently, wired cable penetration is at 67.5%. VCR penetration grew much more rapidly, from 1.1% in 1980 to 68.6% by 1990. It is currently at the 90.2% level.

	CABLE*		VCR	
Year	(000)	% TVHH	(000)	% TVHH
1970	3,900	6.7	—	—
1975	8,600	12.6	—	—
1980	15,200	19.9	840	1.1
1985	36,340	42.8	17,740	20.9
1990	51,900	56.4	63,180	68.6
1995	60,460	63.4	77,270	81.0
1996	62,580	65.3	78,830	82.2
1997	64,470	66.5	81,670	84.2
1998	65,810	67.2	82,910	84.6
1999	67,120	67.5	84,140	84.6
2000	68,550	68.0	85,810	85.1
2001	69,490	68.0	88,120	86.2
2002	73,230	69.4	96,190	91.2
2003	74,430	69.8	97,630	91.5
2004	73,860	68.1	98,400	90.8
2005	73,930	67.5	98,860	90.2

Source: Nielsen Media Research-NTI, Jan. each year
*Wired Cable

PREVIOUS TABLE OF CONTENTS NEXT

TVB Members: **Click here** for a PowerPoint version of TV Basics.

VIEWER TRACK MARKET TRACK CONSUMER TRACK MEDIA TRENDS TRACK AD REVENUE TRACK

Ask TVB Back to Top

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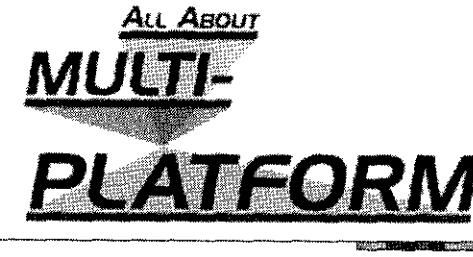
ATTACHMENT K



MULTI-CHANNEL

Digital TV, Digital Cable & HDTV Penetration & Projections

According to the National Association of Broadcasters' web site, the following information is based on a Spring 2004 Knowledge Networks/SRI Home Technology Monitor survey.

Total TV Households	110,200,000 for the 2005-06 TV Season
Estimated number of sets in all households	286,858,704
Broadcast-only Households	
Households that rely solely on over-the-air broadcasting (OTA) for their TV service:	18.9% (20,489,520)
MVPD (Multichannel Video Programming Distributor) Households	
Households that subscribe to an MVPD (cable or satellite)	81.1% (87,920,640)
Est. number of sets in MVPD homes	241,781,760
Percentage of MVPD Households that also have one or more OTA-only sets	20.8% (18,287,493)
Digital Television Penetration	
Estimated percentage of U.S. TV households with DTV sets	5.9% (6,396,199)
Estimated percentage of U.S. TV households with OTA reception capability	19% (21 million HH)

According to Nielsen Media Research estimates:

Digital Television Projections
12% penetration in 2005, increasing to 20% by end of 2005
Digital Cable
24.9% penetration of Nielsen Media Research's People Meter total installed HH's as of 9/15/05 (38.2% of the wired cable sample)
Analog Cable
40.3% penetration of Nielsen Media Research's People Meter total installed HH's as of 9/15/05

According to Kagan Research estimates:

HDTV Penetration	12.4 million HD sets sold since 1998 (as of 12/2004)
According to Consumer Electronics Association:	
HDTV Penetration	15% of homes in the U.S. in 2005
According to research from Strategy Analytics:	
Households with HD-capable TV displays	29 million U.S. HH by 2008
According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO):	
19% or TV homes or 21 million households rely exclusively on over-the-air TV	
According to Forrester Research:	
	Will grow to over 50 million HHs

HDTV Penetration	in the next 5 years
According to Edison/Arbitron 2005 research study:	
HDTV Penetration	10% of population 12+ owned or used HDTV
According to the National Cable & Telecommunications Association (NCTA):	
Digital Cable	In 1Q05 there were 26 million digital cable customers
HDTV Service	By Jan. '05, 92 million TV HHs were passed by at least one cable system offering HDTV service

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ATTACHMENT L

NEWS

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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC. 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 4, 2004

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT
Rebecca Fisher (202)418-2359
David Fiske (202)418-0513

CHAIRMAN POWELL ANNOUNCES MAJOR DTV CONSUMER EDUCATION INITATIVE "DTV – Get It!"

Washington, DC – Today, FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell launched a multi-year, multi-phased consumer education and outreach campaign – "DTV – Get it!" - designed to inform the public about the digital television (DTV) transition and the availability of high-definition and other digital content and to provide resources for Americans interested in joining the DTV ranks.

Powell recognized the significant advances made by the government and the industry over the last several years in increasing the availability of digital and high-definition programming available to the American public. He also cited the growing popularity of DTV, and acknowledged consumer confusion about the changing digital television landscape.

"Although for the vast majority of American households, digital television may be uncharted territory, we will not let them go it alone," Powell said. "If you have questions about digital television, the FCC is ready to serve as a primary resource for quick answers. Then we hope they will get DTV – get the set, get the connection, get the content," he said.

Powell unveiled a new web portal www.dtv.gov to serve as a one-stop source of information on the DTV transition and available high-definition programming. The site allows consumers to find a list of high-definition programming options available in their home, answers to frequently asked questions about the DTV transition and a guide for DTV shoppers.

The FCC also announced a joint effort with the commitment from the Consumer Electronic Association (CEA) and the Consumer Electronics Retailers Coalition (CERC) on the creation and distribution of a DTV Tip Sheet. The new consumer tip sheet describes digital television features and equipment and provides a glossary of common terms. The tip sheet also explains that TV sets with only analog tuners will need a separate converter box in the future to receive over-the-air signals after TV stations turn off their analog signals. CERC's Board Member companies—Best Buy, Circuit City, RadioShack and Tweeter—agreed to distribute the DTV Tip Sheet to the public at their retail outlets.

"I commend these retailers for helping eliminate consumer confusion where it is needed most—at the point of sale," Powell said. "We look forward to working with more retailers to make this DTV Tip Sheet available for distribution in their stores."

-- FCC--

Digital Television Frequently Asked Questions, DTV Tower Siting Fact Sheet, and RF Guide

Digital Television ("DTV") is a new broadcast technology that will transform television as we now know it. While it will be up to individual broadcasters to determine which services they will make available with DTV, the technology of DTV will allow them to offer free television with movie-quality picture and CD- quality sound and a variety of other enhancements. DTV also will make possible the rapid delivery of large amounts of information services over your television set and will free up valuable broadcast spectrum so that it will be available for other information and communications services.

DTV will present broadcasters with many new options for offering service to the public. Which services are offered will depend upon the broadcasters. With digital television, broadcasters will have the technology available to transmit a variety of data as well as presenting television programs in new ways. This means that broadcasters will be able to offer you an entire edition of a newspaper, or sports information, or computer software, or telephone directories, or stock market updates if they choose to do so. Not only will broadcasters be able to broadcast at least one high definition TV program, they may also, if they choose to, simultaneously transmit several standard definition TV programs. Another possibility is broadcasts in multiple languages with picture and information inserts and in some cases viewers will have the opportunity to select camera angles.

An important additional benefit of DTV is that it will free up parts of the broadcast spectrum for public safety as well as other valuable business uses. This is possible because the modern technology of DTV is more efficient than analog TV technology (what you now have). DTV allows the same number of stations to broadcast using fewer total different channels (less of the broadcast spectrum) which will free up scarce and valuable spectrum. The result is the freeing up of scarce and valuable spectrum for other communications uses. Broadcast spectrum no longer needed by broadcasters will be returned to the government for a variety of uses, including specific allocations to meet the vital communications needs of public safety, police and fire departments.

Digital television will be available to you soon for several reasons. Last year, the U.S. Congress authorized the distribution of additional broadcast spectrum to each TV broadcaster so that they could introduce this new DTV service while simultaneously continuing with their current analog broadcasts. In order to ensure the successful introduction of DTV and to make it available to as many Americans as quickly as possible, the Federal Communications Commission established an accelerated schedule for its introduction. Because of this FCC rule, most Americans are scheduled to have access to DTV by 1999 and everyone in this country is scheduled to have DTV access by the year 2002.

At the same time, it will take a number of years to convert fully to DTV because today's television sets are not designed to receive digital transmissions. In order to

Media Bureau Forms

Certification of Open Video Systems

Notices of Intent to Establish Open Video Systems

Inflation Updates for Cable Forms

Significantly Viewed List (4/6/06)

All cable communities registered with the FCC, MS Excel Format (updated daily). This is a large file, more than 13MB. Here is a "zipped" version if you prefer. If you want the list broken down by state, follow this link.

Media Bureau Databases

provide a smooth transition to DTV service with as little disruption to the public as possible, and as provided in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the FCC granted each existing broadcaster an additional 6MHz channel to be used for digital transmissions. Each broadcaster will also retain its existing channel to continue broadcasting its current analog technology signal during the transition period.

At the end of the transition period -- which is now scheduled for the year 2006 -- broadcasters will be required to surrender one of the two channels. The transition period is subject to periodic progress reviews by the FCC. In addition, last fall Congress included provisions in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 that would extend analog service beyond the 2006 date if certain conditions exist. They include a variety of conditions such as: the failure of one or more of the largest TV stations in a market to begin broadcasting digital TV signals due to causes outside the broadcasters control, or if fewer than 85% of the TV households in a market are able to receive digital TV signals off the air either with a digital TV set or with an analog set equipped with a converter box or subscribe to a cable-type service that carries the DTV stations in the market.

During this transition period, consumers who wish to simply continue receiving only analog tv service will be able to do so. Consumers will be able indefinitely to get service out of their existing television sets, but will not be able to see the DTV broadcasts without a special converter. In order to receive DTV you will have the option of purchasing a converter which can be used with your existing television. You also will have the option of purchasing a digital TV, which will be expensive at first (just as color televisions were very expensive when they were first introduced), but which are expected to become more affordable when DTV is widely available.

The FCC has made clear that its goal in making DTV available to the public is to provide for the success of free, local digital broadcast TV. Broadcasters are allowed to use the channels according to their best business judgment -- as long as they continue to offer a free digital video programming service at least comparable in resolution to the service available today and aired during the same time periods. Broadcasters will be able to put together any package of digital products (including subscription services) which they think will be most productive and efficient. Some of the packages put together by broadcasters may include subscription ("pay") services too.

As far as timing is concerned, the FCC requires that in the top ten markets -- which represents 30 percent of TV households -- affiliates of the top four networks must be on the air with a digital signal by May 1, 1999. In markets 11 through 30 -- representing 53 percent of the country -- by November 1, 1999. Additionally a number of TV stations in the top ten markets have committed to building their digital facilities by November 1, 1998 (in time for the holiday 1998 shopping season).

In order to provide DTV service while continuing to broadcast their analog programs, many television broadcasters may have to modify their transmission towers or construct new towers. Before modifying or building towers, broadcasters may need to get approval from state, city or county governments regarding local zoning, physical engineering, construction, safety and other issues. In addition to zoning issues, your local government has the authority to make sure that any new construction is safe.

Last May, the FCC received a petition from the National Association of Broadcasters and the Association for Maximum Service Television (petitioners)

arguing that local zoning regulations may make it impossible for many broadcasters to meet the schedule for the introduction of DTV. They expressed concern that the process of gaining approval from local authorities may take so long that the broadcasters won't be able to modify or construct their DTV towers in time to make DTV available on schedule. As a result, the petitioners asked the FCC to adopt a rule allowing preemption of local regulations and requiring a prompt local review process with federally established time limits.

Wanting input from the public on this petition, on August 19, 1997, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on the matter. In issuing the NPRM, the FCC recognized the need to balance the important federal policy of expediting the implementation of DTV with the importance of being sensitive to the rights of states and localities to protect the interests of their citizens. The FCC made clear that the purpose of the NPRM was to solicit critically important public comment and not to infringe upon state and local rights.

Indeed, the FCC recognizes the importance of state and local authority to protect its citizens. The NPRM described the changes to FCC rules that the petitioner proposed and sought public comment to those changes. Specifically the FCC sought comment on the petitioners' proposal that it adopt a rule preempting local regulations where they interfere with the swift introduction of DTV. The NPRM also asked general questions about the impact of local regulations on the construction of broadcast towers and about the areas where local authority should be protected. Additionally, comments were sought on more specific issues such as whether the FCC should preempt local regulation intended for aesthetic purposes.

Comments were due on the NPRM on October 30, 1997. Reply comments were due December 1, 1997. Comments filed in this proceeding are available to the public in the FCC Reference Center in Room 239, 1919 M St., N.W., Washington, D.C. or by calling International Transcription Service (ITS) at (202)857-3800, a commercial service that researches, retrieves and duplicates FCC documents.

It is important to note that the FCC has not reached any conclusions or made any final decisions on this matter. The NPRM is the beginning of the rulemaking process. The FCC is currently reviewing all of the comments that were filed and making sure all parties are heard. The FCC can either adopt a proposed rule, or some modified version of it, or decide not to adopt the proposal at all.

The Commission is hopeful that the broadcast industry and local governments will be able to develop strategies to achieve workable solutions with DTV implementation. Representatives of the Local and State Government Advisory Committee (LSGAC) established by the FCC have been meeting with FCC staff and with the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) to attempt to work together to resolve this situation.

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT DIGITAL TELEVISION AND DIGITAL TELEVISION FACILITIES

1. What is digital television (DTV)?
2. How will digital television be different than current broadcast television?
3. Will I still be able to watch my favorite TV programs? Will there be more or

different broadcast TV service available with DTV?
4. How will digital television benefit the public?
5. Why will more of the broadcast spectrum be available for public safety use? When will it be available?
6. Will I need a new television to receive DTV?
7. Are the new digital television sets very expensive?
8. What will the new digital television sets look like?
9. Will I be able to continue receiving regular television?
10. Will I need a special new antenna in order to receive DTV over the air?
11. Why can't there be DTV in addition to the television system we now have?
12. How long will it take for the conversion to DTV? What is the schedule for conversion to DTV?
13. What happens if digital television is not widely available by the end of the transition period?
14. What must a TV station do to convert to DTV?
15. Will there be a lot of new towers for DTV?
16. Do DTV stations require very tall towers?
17. Where will the new towers be located? Will my local government have a say in where the towers will be built? How soon will they be built?
18. Are DTV Towers hazardous to airplane navigation? What has the FCC done to make sure airplanes and airports won't be affected by the new towers and modifications?
19. How does the FCC or the FAA determine what lighting and painting is appropriate for a particular structure? Does the public have input into the process of determining whether a structure may constitute an aviation hazard or in determining how a tower should be lighted or painted?
20. Do the FCC and the FAA have a height limit for towers?
21. Will my local community leaders have any say in tower construction issues?
22. What is the status of the FCC's rulemaking proceeding on the broadcast industry's request for federal limits on the time it takes for state and local authorities to rule on tower sitings?
23. What has the FCC done to protect against the possibly harmful effects of radiofrequency (RF) emission from a television transmission?
24. Will DTV stations cause interference with any other technologies?
25. Who will own the new DTV stations?
26. Where can local government officials or a DTV licensee find assistance in understanding some of the complex issues involved in tower construction and siting to facilitate the swift resolution of zoning/permitting proceedings?
27. Where can I get more information about any of these questions and issues?

Antenna Tower Lighting and Marking Requirements

The following questions and answers were compiled by FCC staff to help inform consumers, broadcasters, and local communities and officials, about digital television and DTV implementation. They cover questions about the nature of digital television, how it affects the public, what kinds of changes in services and products it will provide, the schedule for the transition to digital television, the facilities necessitated by the transition to digital television, and the regulation and safety issues raised by new facilities necessary to provide DTV service.

I. *What is digital television (DTV)?*

Digital television (DTV) is a new type of broadcasting technology that will

transform television as we now know it. Pursuant to Congressional authorization, the Commission has established rules for the transition to this new technology. By transmitting the information used to make a TV picture and sound as "data bits" (as does a computer), a digital broadcaster can carry more information than is currently possible with analog broadcast technology. This will allow for the transmission of pictures with higher resolution for dramatically better picture and sound quality than is currently available, or of several "standard definition" TV programs at once. ("Standard definition" digital TV pictures would be similar in clarity and detail to the best TV pictures being received and displayed today using the current (analog NTSC) broadcast system and TV receivers.) The DTV technology can also be used to transmit large amounts of other data that you may be able to access using your computer or your television set.

2. *How will digital television be different than current broadcast television?*

With digital television, broadcasters will be able to offer free television of higher resolution and better picture quality than now exists under the current mode of TV transmission. If broadcasters so choose, they can offer what has been called "high definition television" or HDTV, television with theater-quality pictures and CD-quality sound. Alternatively, a broadcaster can offer several different TV programs at the same time, with pictures and sound quality better than is generally available today. In addition, a broadcaster will be able to simultaneously transmit a variety of other information through a data bitstream to both enhance its TV programs and to provide entirely new services. For example, TV programs can be broadcast with a variety of languages and captions, and sports programs can be broadcast so that the individual viewer might select his or her favorite camera angle or call up player statistics, game scores or other information. Broadcasters also will be able to transmit to your television an entire edition of a newspaper, sports information, computer software, telephone directories, stock market updates, interactive educational material and any other information which can be translated into digital bits.

3. *Will I still be able to watch my favorite TV programs? Will there be more or different broadcast TV service available with DTV?*

Digital television is simply a new way of transmitting programming material. The programming carried depends upon the broadcaster. The programs themselves will not necessarily change, except to the extent that the pictures and sound will be better and a greater variety of effects and enhancements will be possible. Each broadcaster will also be able to offer several programs at the same time through its DTV channel capacity. There is a trade-off between using digital transmission capacity for improved pictures and sound and using it to transmit additional programs. Also, broadcasters will be able to devote some capacity to offering a variety of other information services. The determination of how much capacity to devote to improved pictures and how much to devote to additional programs or other services is up to each broadcaster and their response to viewer demands. In any event, digital broadcasters are required to carry, at a minimum, one video programming stream of visual quality that is equal to or better than that now available on their analog channel.

During the transition to DTV, during which time broadcasters will operate both analog (NTSC) and digital channels, broadcasters will decide which programs to put on which channel, and may decide to "simulcast" programs on both stations (that is, air the same program at the same time on both the digital and analog stations). (Federal rules, in fact, require a certain amount of simulcasting during the transition.)

The government has provided for a transition period, until at least the year 2006, during which broadcasters will continue to operate their old analog stations.

4. *How will digital television benefit the public*?

The advent of DTV will benefit the public because of the improved quality, and possibly quantity, of free television service and the potential availability of much more information on your television set. In addition, one of the most important benefits of DTV is the fact that it will free up parts of the broadcast spectrum and allow its return to the government for other important uses. A part of this additional spectrum has already been designated for public safety, police and fire usage, and other options will be available for other business purposes.

5. *Why will more of the broadcast spectrum be available for public safety use? When will it be available*?

More of the broadcast spectrum will be available for public safety use by local communities because DTV allows the same number of stations to broadcast using fewer total different channels (less of the spectrum) which will free up scarce and valuable spectrum. Broadcast spectrum that is no longer needed by existing broadcasters will be returned to the government and used for public safety, police and fire departments as well as other uses (including, possibly, additional television channels). This spectrum holds the potential for federal, state and local law enforcement and other safety agencies to share state of the art communications networks to enhance both their individual and their collective effectiveness.

The transition to DTV-only service is currently scheduled for the end of 2006, subject to periodic review an depending on DTV availability. After the transition is complete, broadcasters will be required to return to the government a portion of the spectrum currently used for analog stations, and a portion of that spectrum has already been be allocated for public safety, police and fire usage at that time in the future. Once the Commission makes a final determination as to how to allocate these frequencies to individual users, municipalities, counties, states and qualifying safety agencies will need to go through a licensing process to authorize their use.

6. *Will I need a new television to receive DTV*?

Not necessarily. During the transition period established for the changeover -- until at least 2006 -- consumers who wish to rely on analog program service can continue to use their existing sets to receive that service, but they will not be able to see the DTV broadcasts without a special converter. Broadcasters will continue to operate their current stations until that time, and consumers will be able to get many more years of service during the useful lives of their existing television sets.

Consumers who wish to keep their existing sets and also want to receive the DTV programming will be able to purchase converters which will allow them to view digital programs on their current sets. The pictures should be clear of the "ghosts" and interference characteristic of analog transmission, although they will not be of the higher DTV picture quality. To receive the full benefits of digital television service, you will need a new digital television set.

7. *Are the new digital television sets very expensive*?