



OFFICE OF  
THE COMMISSIONER

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C.

August 18, 2011

Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Video Description: Implementation of the  
Twenty-First Century Communications and Video  
Accessibility Act of 2010, MB Docket No. 11-43

Notice of Ex Parte Presentation

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On August 17, 2011, I spoke with Larry Goldberg, Director of Media Access at WGBH and Linda Idoni, Director of the West Coast WGBH Media Access Group. Our conversation focused on the production schedule, production coordination, and contract negotiations currently in place for video description and how they would envision that evolving as more broadcasters and cable networks implement the video description requirements mandated by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010.

Both Mr. Goldberg and Ms. Idoni indicated that the majority of their contract negotiations are completed in a day or two and that for a portion of their work, a purchase order serves as a contract. In terms of the production work, a rough cut is usually sent via an electronic transfer and then WGBH completes the scripting, voicing and mixing before returning the work to the post-production team. Both said it is extremely rare to have any editorial input from the production studio on the video description script.

Requiring video description at the beginning mid-season would not be more difficult than at the start of the fall schedule, because Ms. Idoni said reruns were in fact much easier to video describe because there is no rough cut preceding the final cut. In some circumstances Ms. Idoni said final cut can be sent to WGBH with actors standing by to do the narration and are able to send the pristine audio for the video described program back to the post-production team in as little as two hours. Mr. Goldberg stated he did not foresee problems beginning video description requirements mid-season and noted the initial video description rules were implemented on April 1, 2002.

Ms. Idoni stated that she believes an aggressive timeline can be met and members of the production community conscious of the pending mandate have already been preparing for the upcoming deadlines.

Pursuant to section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, this letter is being filed electronically with the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joshua Cinelli

Media Advisor to Commissioner Copps

cc: Sherrese Smith  
Dave Grimaldi  
Erin McGrath  
Larry Goldberg  
Linda Idoni  
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