

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)
)
Annual Assessment of the Status of) MB Docket No. 12-203
Competition in the Market for the)
Delivery of Video Programming)

**COMMENTS OF
Austin Community College**

Austin Community College Television submits these comments in response to the above-captioned Notice of Inquiry (“NOI”), released July 20, 2012, seeking “data, information, and comment on the state of competition in the delivery of video programming.”

ACC TV is the cable television station operated as a Educational Access channel on Time Warner Cable, Grande Communications in the Austin/ Central Texas area and SuddenLink in Williamson County.

1. How many channels does your MVPD operator(s) provide for PEG programming?
 - a. One (1); **Austin Community College Television ACC TV Channel 19**
2. On which tier are these channels placed and is extra equipment required to view them?

Basic Service Tier

Expanded Basic Tier
3. Are there more or fewer PEG channels carried on MVPD systems than were carried as of June 2010? The same number exists.

4. What data sources exist to track the availability of PEG programming? National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA)

5. Is there any evidence that AT&T's "Channel 99 PEG product" has hurt PEG viewership? **Not at this time.**

Have there been any consumer complaints about PEG accessibility on U-verse?

Not aware of complaints; service mostly new with incomplete coverage area.

6. **The PEG programming in the Austin Texas area has historically been among the best and most representative in the nation. In 1996 the City of Austin granted the local cable providers a franchise agreement. This agreement assured cooperation between the PEG entities and the cable companies. Austin Community College along with Austin ISD is an Educational programming entity. ACC provides 24-7-365 education and information for the Austin/Central Texas area. Austin Community College serves over 40,000 students in both credit and continuing education coursework. ACC's primary cable programming has been Distance Learning Instructional Television. The DL programming supports ITV and online instruction. This programming is supplemented by information and announcements about the College, its programs and activities. The local government is represented by a City and a County channel as well as three public access community channels including one especially aimed toward the non-secular community. There was some concern at two recent time points. At the time of the digital conversion (June 2009) there was some concern about the cable subscribers' ability to continue receiving the Access channel signals; local cable providers did work with the PEG broadcasters to provide digital converter boxes to "student" subscribers. The new Statewide franchise agreement SB 5 of 2011 quelled some fears that there would be no governmental backup to**

the existing agreements between PEG channel and cable companies after the loss of local agreement within that same year. Funding for equipment is always an issue for PEG programmers who are usually governmentally funded. New technologies are slowly adopted due to limited funding.

John R. Kennie

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Manager, Video Support Services

Distance Learning, Austin Community College

7748 Highway 290 West, 1008

Austin, TX 78736

512-223-8036 ofc./ 512-769-0529 cel.