



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 11, 2009

Mr. Alexander Hunt  
Chief, Information Policy Branch  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget

Dear Mr. Hunt:

The Federal Communications Commission requests approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), and in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) emergency processing rules (5 CFR 1320.13), for revision of a currently approved information collection requirement (OMB Control Numbers 3060-1086). This revised information collection will allow full power digital television (DTV) stations to use a new replacement digital television translator service to provide TV service. Use of the replacement digital television translator service by DTV stations is voluntary, but for some stations may offer the only option for continuing to provide over-the-air service to current analog viewers after the statutory DTV transition deadline of June 12, 2009. The Commission is requesting that the OMB waive the PRA comment period due to the short time frame provided for the Commission to act and because PRA approval is needed to allow stations to make filings immediately. Thus, we would request OMB's approval by May 27, 2009.

The DTV transition affects virtually every segment of the television industry and every American who watches television. Congress has mandated that after June 12, 2009, full-power television broadcast stations must transmit only digital signals and may no longer transmit analog signals. The Commission has no discretion to waive or change this statutory deadline. Stations that are not ready to commence digital operations upon expiration of the statutory transition deadline may be forced to go dark, potentially resulting in significant loss of television service to the American public and significant harm to the broadcast TV industry and the U.S. economy. In addition, the DTV transition will enable the recovery of spectrum for critically important public safety needs and new wireless services.

In the Report and Order, FCC 09-36 (released May 8, 2009), the Commission adopted rules to permit DTV stations to use the replacement digital television translator service. Enclosed with this letter for your reference is Appendix B to the Replacement Digital Television Translator Service Report and Order describing the rule added by this Report and Order, to be codified at 47 C.F.R. § 73.787. The information collection requirement is in § 73.787(a)(5)(i). Please note that only stations that voluntarily choose to use the replacement digital television translator service will be subject to these requirements.

Emergency approval from OMB is necessary for these collections to allow full power television stations to use the replacement digital translator service to meet their statutory responsibilities and begin operations on their final, post-transition (digital) channels by their construction deadlines. Unlike conventional DTV broadcast stations that use a single transmitter, the replacement digital

television translator service will allow stations to use multiple transmitters to spread service around a station's authorized service area. Because any delay can result in harm to television stations that need such flexibility, and, in turn, to their viewers, we find that there is good cause to expedite the effective date of these rules and obtain emergency PRA approval from OMB for these collections.

The replacement digital television translator service will provide broadcasters with an important tool for providing optimum signal coverage for their viewers. For some broadcasters that are changing channels or transmitting locations for their digital service, the replacement digital television translator service may offer the only option for continuing to provide over-the-air service to current analog viewers, as well as for reaching viewers that have historically been unable to receive a good signal due to terrain or other interference.

Commission staff is ready to work with your PRA Desk Officer to immediately provide any additional information needed to assure OMB's approval of this emergency request by May 27, 2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mindy J. Ginsburg', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mindy J. Ginsburg  
Deputy Managing Director  
Federal Communications Commission