

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Implementation of the Satellite Home	)	
Viewer Improvement Act of 1999	)	CS Docket No. 00-96
	)	
Broadcast Signal Carriage Issues	)	

**ORDER**

**Adopted: June 30, 2000**

**Released: June 30, 2000**

By the Chief, Cable Services Bureau:

1. In this Order, we address two Motions for Extension of Time filed by the ABC, CBS, Fox, and NBC Television Network Affiliates Associations/National Association of Broadcasters (hereinafter "Commercial Broadcasters") and the Association of America's Public Television Stations/Corporation for Public Broadcasting/ Public Broadcasting Service (hereinafter "Noncommercial Broadcasters") on June 28, 2000. The two groups move for an extension of time in which to file comments and reply comments in the above-captioned proceeding. Comments are currently due to be filed on July 7, 2000. Reply comments are currently due on July 28, 2000. The two groups ask the Commission to extend the comment and reply comment dates to July 21, 2000, and August 11, 2000, respectively. These Motions are unopposed.

2. The Commercial Broadcasters assert that good cause exists for granting the request. They state that the Commission's decisions in this proceeding are of critical importance to the broadcast industry. They further state that the signal carriage rules adopted by the Commission will be pivotal for the future health of the broadcast industry, including the new digital television service. The Commercial Broadcasters cite four specific reasons why the extension of time request is necessary: (1) the current deadline for comments is three business days before the deadline for reply comments in the Commission's proceeding regarding the technical standards for determining eligibility for satellite-delivered network signals pursuant to the Satellite Home Viewer Improvement Act; the time devoted to preparing comments in that proceeding greatly detract from preparing substantive comments in this proceeding; (2) comments and reply comments that will be filed need Board of Directors' approval and that process will take time; (3) the Fourth of July federal holiday imposes logistical difficulties on individuals that will approve and file comments; and (4) a more complete record can be developed if the motion is granted. The Commercial Broadcasters also assert that if the extension request is granted, there will still be almost sixteen weeks for the Commission to consider all of the pleadings and adopt final rules.

3. The Noncommercial Broadcasters state that the issues surrounding carriage of local public television stations on satellite carriers are "extremely" important to the public television industry. They state that additional time to file comments is necessary to engage in a thorough evaluation of the Commission's proposals and their likely impact on public broadcasters, to consult with the hundreds of affected public television stations, to seek engineering support regarding the technical underpinnings involved in the issues, and to prepare comments based on this evaluation and consultation process.

4. We believe that the factors cited by the two groups warrant granting the requests, in part. We note that the members of these groups would be particularly affected by the outcome of the Commission's determinations in this proceeding. An accurate and complete record that an extension will afford, can only lead to a better informed decision by the Commission in a matter that will materially affect the rights of all broadcasters. At the same time, however, we believe that a slightly shorter timeframe to file comments and reply comments is appropriate given that the Commission has a statutory deadline to issue a Report and Order in this proceeding by November 29, 2000. Therefore, we designate July 14, 2000 and August 4, 2000 as the dates that comments and reply comments will be due, respectively. These new dates take into account the needs of the two groups' while, at the same time, recognizing the Commission's statutory deadline.

5. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to Section 1.46 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. Section 1.46, that the Motions for an Extension of Time to file comments and reply comments filed by the Commercial and Noncommercial Broadcasters ARE GRANTED IN PART.

6. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the deadline for filing comments in this proceeding IS EXTENDED until July 14, 2000 and the deadline for filing reply comments IS EXTENDED until August 4, 2000.

7. This action is taken pursuant to the authority found in Sections 4(i) and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i) and 303(r), and Sections 0.204(b), 0.321, and 1.46 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.204(b), 0.321, and 1.46.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Deborah A. Lathen  
Chief, Cable Services Bureau