



NEWS

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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).

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FCC CHAIRMAN POWELL TO VISIT TENNESSEE TELECOM FACILITIES; VISIT WILL EMPHASIZE HOW RURAL ACCESS TO BROADBAND CAN SPUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Washington, DC -- Michael K. Powell, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and FCC staff, will visit Nashville and Knoxville, TN, on June 29 and 30.

As part of Chairman Powell's focus on rural issues in America, he will tour several telecom facilities and meet with local officials, including representatives of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA), who are involved in telemedicine, distance learning, broadband deployment, innovative technology programs, public safety and homeland security and high definition television.

Several of the events are being co-hosted by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The ARC is a federal-state partnership that works with the people of Appalachia to create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life. Chairman Powell has long been committed to ensuring that the most innovative telecommunications facilities and services be made available to all Americans, including those in rural areas. He has said, "Broadband can be the ultimate economic, educational and medical growth engine for rural America. Advances in broadband services, offered over telephone and cable wires, licensed and unlicensed wireless connections, satellite, digital television, and even over ubiquitous electrical power lines offer the opportunity to significantly improve the quality of life in rural America. It is critical that rural America be included in the path towards digital migration."

The schedule of public events follows:

Tuesday, June 29, 2004

10:15 a.m.
(central time)

Interview and Tour of WSMV-DT (NBC)

WSMV is one of two Nashville television stations that broadcasts in the 1080i HDTV format. (The other 1080i-format HDTV station is the CBS affiliate, WTVF-DT.) Tour will cover the broadcast facility and include a discussion with station officials about current and future HDTV programming and multicasting.

11:05 a.m.

Vanderbilt Medical Center Telemedicine Unit Visit

Presentations by Vanderbilt Medical Center physicians to FCC and TRA staff on cutting edge telemedicine applications, including:

- Electronic medical records system that transfers patient information securely and instantly between hospital centers and doctor's offices;
- Diabetic retinopathy program that allows physicians to conduct eye exams remotely (partnership with BellSouth);
- Remote anesthesia monitoring, which allows centrally-located physicians to remotely monitor administration of anesthesia.

5:30 p.m.
(eastern time)

Tour of Bechtel National, Inc., Oak Ridge

The company manages and operates the Y-12 National Security Complex for the Department of Energy. The tour will involve a visit to the Y-12 Complex and include Homeland Security communications systems, security systems and mobile communications issues through their use of technology-based manufacturing centers.

Wednesday, June 30, 2004: Knoxville

9:00 a.m.

Tour and Roundtable at Technology 2020/Digital Crossing.

Chairman Powell, Appalachian Regional Commission Federal Co-chair, Anne Pope, Rural Utility Service (RUS) Administrator Hilda Gay Legg and TRA Chair Debi Tate tour the Digital Crossing headquarters and data center and visit with representatives of the firms housed in the "incubator" facilities.

(The non-profit Technology 2020 Center, funded in part by the ARC, was initiated in 1993 to capitalize on the unique resources of the East Tennessee region and bring more technology industry and jobs to Tennessee. Digital Crossing is a wholly owned subsidiary of Technology 2020 that serves as a data center (where companies can use Digital Crossing's servers and routers and not have to maintain their own) as well as an "incubator" where technology firms can develop using the services of Technology 2020, Digital Crossing and other affiliated organizations.)

10:00 a.m.

Chairman Powell, ARC Federal Co-chair Anne Pope, Administrator Legg and TRA Chair Debi Tate participate in technology leaders Roundtable.

11:30 a.m.

University of Tennessee Telehealth Network (UTTN): Presentation and Program Demonstrations

Housed in the University of Tennessee Medical Center, UTTN serves a number of hospitals and community health centers in the East Tennessee Region. UTTN was named one of the nation's top 10 telehealth programs by *Telehealth Magazine*. Visit will include demonstrations on two innovative programs called Baby Touch™ and Family Touch.™ These programs allow mothers to see their ill newborns when there is separation due to illness, and family members to remain connected to loved ones who are ill.

12:30- 2:30 p.m.

Chairman Powell delivers keynote address at Luncheon hosted by ARC; followed by discussion on Bringing Broadband to Rural America.

Schedule of Events:

- Remarks by TRA Chair, Debi Tate
- Remarks by RUS, Hilda Legg
- Remarks by ARC Chair Anne Pope and introduction of Chairman Powell
- Keynote by Chairman Powell
- Question & Answer Session moderated by Sam Burgiss of UTTN.

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