



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

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).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 6, 2009

VILSACK, COPPS AND WADE TO KICK OFF THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT'S BROADBAND INITIATIVE

Partners from Commerce, Agriculture, FCC to Highlight New Programs Designed to Accelerate Broadband Deployment in Rural, Underserved Areas

News Media Contacts:

Mark Wigfield, FCC, (202) 418-0253, Mark.Wigfield@fcc.gov

Jay Fletcher, USDA/RUS, (202) 690-0498, Jay.fletcher@wdc.usda.gov

Kevin Griffis/Karen Cowles Pullen, (202) 482-4883, kgriffis@doc.gov/kcpullen@doc.gov

WASHINGTON—U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Acting Chairman Michael Copps and U.S. Department of Commerce Senior Advisor and Acting Chief of Staff Rick Wade will announce the kickoff Tuesday of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009's (ARRA) broadband initiative.

Vilsack, Copps and Wade will discuss the implementation of the broadband initiatives funded by the ARRA, initiatives critical for building a 21st Century information infrastructure and creating jobs in communities across the country. They also will announce a series of meetings that will give the public an opportunity to ask questions about and provide comment on the program.

The broadband initiatives funded in the ARRA are intended to accelerate broadband deployment in unserved, underserved and rural areas and to strategic institutions that are likely to create jobs or provide significant public benefits. After remarks from the department heads, participants from the partner agencies will discuss the USDA Rural Development's Broadband Program, the National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA) new Broadband Technology Opportunities Program and the development by the FCC of a national broadband plan. There will also be time for public comment. The meeting agenda and information about these initiatives is available at each of the agencies Web sites: USDA Rural Development at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>, NTIA at www.ntia.doc.gov and FCC at www.fcc.gov/recovery/broadband/. This will be the first of several public meetings.

Attendance at the meeting is limited to space available and seating for the public will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Individuals requiring special services, such as sign language

interpretation or other ancillary aids, are asked to indicate this to Barbara Brown at least two (2) days prior to the meeting, which will be streamed live on the Web at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/> and archived at each of the agency Web sites.

For further information, contact Mary Campanola, USDA Rural Development, at (202) 720-8822 or mary.campanola@wdc.usda.gov; Barbara Brown, NTIA, at (202) 482-4374 or bbrown@ntia.doc.gov; or Christi Shewman, FCC, at (202) 418-1686 or christi.shewman@fcc.gov.

ARRA Broadband Initiative Kickoff

Who: USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack
FCC Acting Chairman Michael Copps
U.S. Department of Commerce Acting Chief of Staff Rick Wade

What: ARRA Broadband Initiatives Kickoff

When: 10:00—11:30 a.m.
Tues., March 10, 2009
(Press Check in: 9:15 a.m.)

Where: Auditorium, U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Press should enter the aquarium entrance on 14th Street and should RSVP by 4:00 p.m. Monday, March 9 to kcpullen@doc.gov or kgriffis@doc.gov.

-FCC-

News about the Federal Communications Commission can also be found
on the Commission's web site www.fcc.gov.