

**STATEMENT OF  
CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI**

Re: *In the Matter of Effects on Broadband Communications Networks of Damage to or Failure of Network Equipment or Severe Overload*, Docket No. 10-92

Today we begin an inquiry on the survivability and reliability of broadband communications networks, implementing a recommendation of the National Broadband Plan to further public safety and homeland security. As Americans are increasingly relying on broadband networks for voice, video, data, and other communications services, the reliability and survivability of broadband communications networks becomes an even more critical factor in the safety, security, and well-being of the American people. And as network attacks and the level of risks and costs increase, it is beyond important that we fully understand the implications of this evolution in communications, and that we take all necessary and appropriate steps to ensure the survivability of our voice and broadband communications networks.

This NOI examines the survivability of broadband infrastructure by seeking comment on the ability of existing broadband communications networks to withstand disasters, including whether there is adequate network redundancy, whether our networks can function in times of service overload, and whether physical network facilities can withstand harm. This is a vitally important step in ensuring, first, that the Commission has all the facts and data it needs with respect to the survivability of our broadband communications networks, and second, that the Commission quickly take all necessary actions to ensure ongoing broadband communications in times of disaster or crisis.