

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL**

*Re: New Part 4 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Disruptions to Communications;
ET Docket No. 04-35, Report and Order*

The foundation of our homeland security agenda is a reliable telecommunications infrastructure. With support from the Department of Homeland Security, today's *Report and Order* helps to ensure that foundation is properly laid.

With Americans depending on telecommunications for everything from banking to paging, it is imperative that our systems run reliably. Our current outage reporting requirements focus on the wireline network. Although these requirements have been successful in recognizing and correcting certain causes of service disruptions, it would be imprudent to focus solely on wireline networks as our telecommunications infrastructure becomes increasingly diverse. Today's Order adopts a technology neutral metric to be used across all telecommunications networks.

By requiring mandatory outage reports of carriers we are facilitating a prompt discovery of outages and assuring that first responders, government leaders and citizens will be able to quickly regain access to the services they depend on. Today's Order applies a new common metric of "user-minutes" potentially affected by an outage. This new metric will guarantee that all outages are reported and corrected. Additionally, the rules adopted today revise our previous 911/E911 outage reporting criteria further protecting citizens in times of crisis.

Simplifying the time calculation for filing reports and providing an electronic template will help reduce the burden on carriers who must file a report. The streamlining of the reporting requirements strikes a balance between the Commission's need to be apprised of outages, while at the same time minimizing burden on the industry. The Order also recognizes that much of the information provided in these reports will contain sensitive homeland security information. In order to prevent this information from falling into hostile hands, the Commission has created appropriate protections for this data.

Today's *Report and Order* is yet another step the Commission is taking to ensure the safety of America's telecommunications networks. In a world becoming increasingly dependent on rapid communication via wireless, cable and satellite we adopt these rules to make certain that disruptions to these networks are minimal and rapidly corrected.