

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JONATHAN S. ADELSTEIN**

RE: Implementation of Short-term Analog Flash and Emergency Readiness Act; Establishment of DTV Transition "Analog Nightlight" Program, MB Docket No. 08-255

Today, the Commission takes the first step toward developing a systematized approach to deal with the post-DTV transition period. An analog nightlight program for full-power stations to transmit DTV-related or emergency information after the transition date of February 17, 2009, is absolutely essential to help inform many over-the-air reliant households if they fail to transition before the deadline. I commend Senator Rockefeller, Congresswoman Capps, the leadership of the House and Senate committees that oversee us, and Congress as a whole for their quick action on this time-sensitive legislation. I am pleased that the Commission and Media Bureau staff acted without delay to implement the Short-term Analog Flash and Emergency Readiness Act.

I have visited many American television markets and been impressed with the level of commitment and cooperation exhibited by broadcasters, cable and satellite operators, and business and community groups. Throughout the country, broadcasters understand the stakes and are taking steps to provide assistance to their viewers. I have talked about the analog nightlight program with broadcasters and many have expressed interest. In certain markets, broadcasters have even talked about pooling resources to finance the costs of preserving the analog signal on one station post-transition. This quick action by Congress, the President and the Commission provides them the opportunity.

The stations that have been initially determined in this item to be eligible to implement this nightlight program are in only 136 of the 210 television markets throughout the nation. I strongly encourage stations in markets without such pre-approved stations to seriously consider participating in this program as a public service to your viewing community. Each station participating in this "analog nightlight" program will effectively serve as "lifeline" to households that have delayed in transitioning. This will ensure that we leave no household uninformed after the transition.