

**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

With less than 35 days left before the digital television transition deadline, time is not on our side and the outlook could not be more troubling. So today, we approve this *Order* establishing a post-transition, analog nightlight service with a grave sense of urgency *and* necessity.

Based on the shortcomings of the converter box coupon program, we know millions of viewers and households will simply not be prepared on February 17th. The analog nightlight service we authorize today is an effort to minimize the detrimental impact on analog TV-reliant viewers, ensuring that they will have access to public safety and emergency services information. Nightlight stations also will serve as a guiding beacon toward the new world of DTV and will help people find their way.

I fully support the creation of a streamlined mechanism to encourage the more than 820 pre-approved television stations in over 200 designated television markets and Puerto Rico to continue providing analog service after the DTV transition. I am also pleased we are encouraging other stations to apply for authorization by making the nightlight service flexible and minimally burdensome. And while we are requiring DTV transition information to be in Spanish and English, I am particularly pleased we also are encouraging participating stations to provide on-air information in additional languages that may serve local viewers.

While I continue to believe the DTV transition is not ready for primetime – since Congress established the hard deadline there has been a lack of federal leadership, organization and coordination, I nevertheless would like to highlight that there are scores of talented and committed FCC employees here at headquarters and in the field working every day to ensure that the transition is smooth for all Americans. These dedicated public servants understand that at the end of the day, the success of this transition should be measured by the experience of each individual person or household. From personal experience, I know that FCC staff are doing their best to make sure that everyone with whom they interact and every project to which they are assigned is met with the highest quality of service and integrity.