

Video Description

• Video description is an emerging service with only limited availability today. In contrast with the widespread availability of closed captioning, video descriptions are transmitted with only a small number of programs. As a consequence, the present record on which to assess video description is limited and the emerging nature of the service renders definitive conclusions difficult. The general accessibility of video description is dependent on the resolution of certain technical, legal and cost issues.

• There are approximately 8.6 million individuals who are blind or visually disabled, according to the National Center for Health Statistics, who might benefit from video description.

• Not all broadcast stations or other video distributors are able to transmit the secondary audio programming or "SAP" channel needed to provide video description and only about half of the nation's homes have a television with the capability to receive the SAP channel. Currently, video description is only available on some Public Broadcasting Service ("PBS") programming and a limited number of cable satellite programming networks.

• Video description requires the development of a second script containing the narration of actions taking place in the video programming that are not reflected in the existing dialogue. The cost of video description are approximately one and a half times the costs associated with closed captioning similar programming.

• Obstacles to the development of video description have been the limited availability of SAP channels, the use of SAP channels for other audio tracks, including non-English language programming, limited funding by government and other sources and unresolved copyright issues related to the creation of a second script.

• The Commission will continue to monitor the deployment of video description and the development of standards for new video technologies that will afford greater accessibility of video description. Specifically, the Commission will seek additional information that will permit a better assessment of video description in conjunction with its 1997 report to Congress assessing competition in the video market place that is required by Section 628(g) of the Communications Act.

Ordering Clauses

6. This *Report* is issued pursuant to authority contained in Sections 4(i), 4(j),

403 and 713 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 154(j), 403 and 613.

7. It is *ordered* that the Secretary shall send copies of this Report to the appropriate committees and subcommittees of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate.

Federal Communications Commission.

William F. Caton,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-20640 Filed 8-13-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-U

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

[FEMA-1128-DR]

Michigan; Amendment to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice of a major disaster for the State of Michigan (FEMA-1128-DR), dated July 23, 1996, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 31, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pauline C. Campbell, Response and Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3606.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of a major disaster for the State of Michigan, is hereby amended to include the following area among those areas determined to have been adversely affected by the catastrophe declared a major disaster by the President in his declaration of July 23, 1996:

Midland County for Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 83.516, Disaster Assistance)

William C. Tidball,

Associate Director, Response and Recovery Directorate.

[FR Doc. 96-20721 Filed 8-13-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-02-P

[FEMA-1127-DR]

North Carolina; Amendment to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice of a major disaster for the State of North

Carolina (FEMA-1127-DR), dated July 18, 1996, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 2, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pauline C. Campbell, Response and Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3606.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of a major disaster for the State of North Carolina, is hereby amended to include the following areas among those areas determined to have been adversely affected by the catastrophe declared a major disaster by the President in his declaration of July 18, 1996:

Bladen and Greene Counties for Individual Assistance, Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation.

Chowan County for Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 83.516, Disaster Assistance)

Dennis H. Kwiatkowski,

Deputy Associate Director, Response and Recovery Directorate.

[FR Doc. 96-20722 Filed 8-13-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-02-P

[FEMA-1122-DR]

Ohio; Amendment to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice of a major disaster for the State of Ohio (FEMA-1122-DR), dated June 24, 1996, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 2, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pauline C. Campbell, Response and Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3606.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of a major disaster for the State of Ohio, is hereby amended to include the following areas among those areas determined to have been adversely affected by the catastrophe declared a major disaster by the President in his declaration of June 24, 1996:

Hocking and Vinton Counties for Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 83.516, Disaster Assistance.)

Dennis H. Kwiatkowski,

Deputy Associate Director, Response and Recovery Directorate.

[FR Doc. 96-20741 Filed 8-13-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-02-P