

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marcia A. Glauberman, Cable Services Bureau (202) 416-1184 or Rebecca Dorch, Office of General Counsel (202) 418-1868.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's 1996 Report in CS Docket No. 96-133, FCC 96-496, adopted December 26, 1996, and released January 2, 1997. The complete text of the 1996 Report is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20554, and may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service ("ITS, Inc."), (202) 857-3800, 2100 M Street, N.W., Suite 140, Washington, D.C. 20037. In addition, the complete text of the 1996 Report is available on the Internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Cable/WWW/csb.html> or at <http://www.fcc.gov/ogc/articles.html>

Synopsis of the 1996 Report

1. In the 1996 Report the Commission reviews provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("1996 Act") that affect competition in markets for the delivery of video programming. The Commission reports on information about cable industry performance and the status of competitive entry by other multichannel video programming distributors ("MVPDs"). The Commission also provides information about structural issues affecting competition, such as horizontal concentration, vertical integration and technological advances. It further examines potential obstacles to the emergence of competition and reports on competitive responses by industry players that are beginning to face competition from other MVPDs.

2. In the 1996 Report the Commission notes that the 1996 Act embodies Congress' intent to promote a "pro-competitive national policy framework" and eventual deregulation of markets for the delivery of video programming. Several of the 1996 Act's provisions are intended to remove barriers to competitive entry in video programming markets and establish market conditions that promote the process of competitive rivalry. Many provisions of the 1996 Act, and the Commission's actions to implement them, have the potential for fostering increased competition in markets for the delivery of video programming.

3. At present, however, incumbent franchised cable systems are still the primary distributors of multichannel video programming. Although other MVPDs continue to increase their share

of subscribers in many local markets for the delivery of video programming, these markets generally remain highly concentrated, and structural conditions are still in place that could permit the exercise of market power by incumbent cable systems. Nationwide, non-cable MVPDs now serve 11% of total MVPD subscribers, with cable operators retaining a share of 89%, down from 91% last year. Notwithstanding this decrease in cable systems' share of total MVPD subscribers, the actual number of cable subscribers continues to increase.

4. Key Findings:

- *Status of competition.* It remains difficult to predict the extent to which competition from MVPDs using non-cable delivery technologies will constrain cable systems' ability to exercise market power in the future. In a growing but still very limited number of instances, incumbent cable system operators face competition from wired MVPDs offering similar services. In addition there has been a substantial increase in subscribership to direct broadcast satellite (DBS) providers offering differentiated services. However, it remains difficult to determine the extent to which markets for the delivery of video programming will be characterized by vigorous rivalry among many MVPDs offering closely substitutable services, or instead will be dominated by a few providers facing less vigorous rivalry from other MVPDs offering highly-differentiated or niche programming services.

- *Industry growth.* The cable industry has continued to grow in terms of the number of subscribers, penetration, average system channel capacity, the number of programming services available, revenues, audience ratings and expenditures on programming since the Commission's previous report in 1995.

- *Horizontal concentration.* Nationally, horizontal concentration among the top cable multiple system operators (MSOs) has continued to increase, but still remains within the moderately concentrated range according to standard measures of industry concentration. If all MVPDs are included for consideration, national concentration falls just above the threshold of the moderately concentrated range. In addition, cable MSOs, through acquisitions and trades, continue to increase regional clustering, which now accounts for service to approximately 50% of all cable subscribers.

- *Promotion of entry and competition.* Several of the 1996 Act's provisions are intended to remove barriers to entry and to promote

competition in markets for the delivery of video programming. The Commission has adopted rules implementing the provision creating open video systems and the provision preempting certain local restrictions on reception devices, including antennas and dishes for reception of over-the-air broadcast, wireless cable and DBS signals.

- *Vertical integration.* Vertical integration of national programming services between cable operators and programmers declined from last year's total of 51% to just 44% this year, due largely to the sale of Viacom's cable system assets. In addition, of the 16 programming services that were launched since the Commission's previous report, 10 are not vertically integrated. Access to programming remains one of the critical factors for successful development of competitive MVPDs.

- *Technological advances.* Technological advances are occurring that will permit MVPDs to increase both quantity of service (i.e., an increased number of channels using the same amount of bandwidth or spectrum space) and types of offerings (e.g., interactive services). MVPDs continue to pursue new system architectures, upgraded facilities, use of increased bandwidth and deployment of digital technology.

Ordering Clauses

5. This 1996 Report is issued pursuant to authority contained in Sections 4(i), 4(j), 403 and 628(g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 154(j), 403 and 548(g).

It is Ordered that the Secretary shall send copies of this 1996 Report to the appropriate committees and subcommittees of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate.

Federal Communications Commission.

William F. Caton,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-2907 Filed 2-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

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FEDERAL REGISTER NUMBER: 97-02490.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED DATE & TIME:
Thursday, February 6, 1997, 10:00 a.m.,
meeting open to the public.

This Meeting Will Not Convene Until 12:00 Noon

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DATE & TIME: Tuesday, February 11, 1997 at 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: 999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

STATUS: This meeting will be closed to the public.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

Compliance matters pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 437g.

Audits conducted pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 437g, § 438(b), and Title 26, U.S.C.

Matters concerning participation in civil actions or proceedings or arbitration.

Internal personnel rules and procedures or matters affecting a particular employee.

Federal Election Commission.

Sunshine Act Notices for Meetings of February 11 and 13, 1997.

DATE & TIME: Thursday, February 13, 1997 at 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: 999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. (Ninth Floor).

STATUS: This meeting will be open to the public.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

Correction and Approval of Minutes.

Final Rules Implementing the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. Administrative Matters.

PERSON TO CONTACT FOR INFORMATION:

Mr. Ron Harris, Press Officer,
Telephone: (202) 219-4155.

Mary W. Dove,

Administrative Assistant.

[FR Doc. 97-3057 Filed 2-4-97; 10:30 am]

BILLING CODE 6715-01-M

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

[FEMA-1155-DR]

**California; 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 California (FEMA-1155-DR), dated January 4, 1997, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 24, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Magda Ruiz, Response and Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3260.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of a major disaster for the State of California 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 January 4, 1997:

The counties of Alameda and San Francisco for Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, and Hazard Mitigation. (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 83.516, Disaster Assistance)

Lacy E. Suiter,

Executive Associate Director, Response and Recovery Directorate.

[FR Doc. 97-2972 Filed 2-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-02-P

[FEMA-1154-DR]

**Idaho; 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 Idaho (FEMA-1154-DR), dated January 4, 1997, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 22, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Magda Ruiz, Response and Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3260.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of a major disaster for the State of Idaho 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 January 4, 1997:

Owyhee County for Hazard Mitigation assistance and Public Assistance (Categories A through G). Federal assistance to replace trees is not eligible.

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

Lacy E. Suiter,

Executive Associate Director, Response and Recovery Directorate.

[FR Doc. 97-2973 Filed 2-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-02-P

[FEMA-1154-DR]

**Idaho; 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 Idaho, (FEMA-1154-DR), dated January 4, 1997, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 22, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Magda Ruiz, Response and Recovery

Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3260.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of a major disaster for the State of Idaho, 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 January 4, 1997:

The counties of Kootenai and Benewah for Individual Assistance and debris removal and emergency protective measures (Categories A and B) under the Public Assistance program.

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

Lacy E. Suiter,

Executive Associate Director, Response and Recovery Directorate.

[FR Doc. 97-2974 Filed 2-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-02-P

[FEMA-1154-DR]

**Idaho; 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 Idaho, (FEMA-1154-DR), dated January 4, 1997, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 22, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Magda Ruiz, Response and Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3260.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of a major disaster for the State of Idaho, 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 January 4, 1997:

The Counties of Adams, Bonner, Boundary, Clearwater, Elmore, Latah, Nez Perce, Payette, Shoshone, Valley, and Washington for Hazard Mitigation Assistance and Categories C, D, E, F, and G under the Public Assistance program. Federal assistance to replace trees is not eligible. (These counties have already been designated for Individual Assistance and Categories A and B under the Public Assistance program.

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

Lacy E. Suiter,

Executive Associate Director, Response and Recovery Directorate.

[FR Doc. 97-2975 Filed 2-18-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-02-P