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For Immediate Release

**FCC TAKES STEPS TO PRESERVE LOW-POWER TV AND TV
TRANSLATOR STATIONS POST-INCENTIVE AUCTION**

WASHINGTON, December 17, 2015 – The Federal Communications Commission yesterday unanimously adopted several measures to help low power television (LPTV) and TV translator stations to continue serving their viewers following next year’s Incentive Auction.

“The Commission’s action is designed to preserve the vital services LPTV and TV translator stations provide – particularly in rural areas,” Media Bureau Chief William Lake said. “These steps, along with other actions we have taken, will help ensure the continued availability of these services following the Incentive Auction.”

The Spectrum Act of 2012 requires the Commission to protect only full power and Class A TV stations when reorganizing or “repacking” the TV band after the auction. Nonetheless, recognizing the important role that LPTV and translator stations play in the communities they serve, the Commission has already taken several steps to help these stations preserve the important programming content they provide.

The Commission voted in 2014 to give LPTV and TV translator stations that are displaced by the repacking and reallocation of the television bands in the Incentive Auction first choice of the remaining TV channels via a special filing window. The Commission also determined that LPTV and TV translator stations operating on channels allocated for wireless use may remain on those channels until they are notified that a forward-auction winner is within 120 days of commencing operations, extending the stations’ time on those channels for several years.

Today’s *Third Channel Sharing Report & Order* builds on these previous Commission actions by:

- *Permitting Channel-Sharing*: The *Third Report & Order* allows channel sharing among LPTV and TV translator stations.
- *Extending Deadline for Digital Transition*: This summer the Commission postponed the September 1, 2015 deadline for LPTV and TV translator stations to transition to digital broadcasting so that these stations will not be forced to complete their digital conversion only to find that their newly constructed digital facilities were displaced as a result of the repacking process. The *Third Report & Order* sets a new digital transition date of 12 months after the 39-month post-incentive auction transition final deadline for full power and Class A stations (51 months after the conclusion of the Incentive Auction).

- *Offering Software Assistance for Finding New Channels*: Prior to opening the special displacement window for LPTV and TV translator stations, the Media Bureau will utilize the repacking and optimization software to identify new channels for displaced translator stations.

The *Third Report & Order* also creates a replacement translator service for full power stations to replace digital service areas lost as a result of repacking, and sunsets the analog tuner requirement for TV sets on August 31, 2017.

The Commission also adopted a *Fourth Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that tentatively concludes to allow channel sharing between primary (full power and Class A) and secondary (LPTV) stations. The Commission had previously proposed in a separate proceeding to allow primary-to-primary sharing outside the incentive auction context. All outstanding issues regarding primary-to-primary and primary-to-secondary channel sharing outside the incentive auction context will be resolved in a single decision based on the combined record developed in both proceedings.

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).