

Date: Tuesday, December 23, 2014

Subject: FCC Invites Public Comment on Updating Definition of Multichannel Video Programming Distributor

FCC Invites Public Comment on Updating Definition of Multichannel Video Programming Distributor

On December 19, 2014, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) seeking comment on a proposal to update its rules to better reflect the fact that video services are being provided increasingly over the Internet. The FCC proposes to change the definition of a multichannel video programming distributor (MVPD) because video programming is now no longer tied to a particular distribution technology (such as television). The new proposed definition of an MVPD will include providers that make multiple linear streams of video programming available for purchase, regardless of the technology used to distribute the programming. This proposal is designed to ensure that (1) the Commission's regulations continue to cover members of the video distribution industry if they change their services to Internet protocol delivery and (2) new web-based video programming services have access to the tools they need to compete with established providers.

Specifically, the NPRM proposes to define the term MVPD in either one of the two following ways:

1. Any programming distributor of multiple linear video programming streams, including Internet-based services, OR
2. Any programming distributor that has control over a transmission path.

The NPRM asks for public comment on the benefits and burdens of each of these possible definitions, and how each would impact MVPDs, consumers, and content owners.

We will announce the due dates for comments and reply comments after these are published in the Federal Register.

Links to the News Release:

Word: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-331161A1.docx

Adobe: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-331161A1.pdf

Link to the NPRM:

<http://www.fcc.gov/document/commission-adopts-mvpd-definition-nprm>

For more information, contact Brendan Murray of the Media Bureau, Policy Division, Brendan.Murray@fcc.gov, (202) 418-1573, or call the ASL Consumer Support Line, at (844) 432-2275 via direct videophone.