

CLEAR CHANNEL – CLEAR RESPONSES IN TIMES OF EXIGENCY.
September 15, 2005

I. INTRODUCTION.

Hello, my name is Dick Lewis, I am Regional Vice President for Louisiana and Southern Mississippi for Clear Channel. I oversee 27 radio stations with about 350 employees throughout the region. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify today. I will go through Clear Channel's experience, our interactions with fellow broadcasters and lastly, but no less important, the role of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Like most broadcasters, Clear Channel takes seriously its role a local broadcaster – and indeed as a life-line -- in each community where we operate. Clear Channel programs and operates our radio and television stations in a locally decentralized manner. Despite this diffused management structure, in times of emergency, the Clear Channel family comes together in full cooperation to ensure that all of our financial, technical and human resources are brought to bear on a situation. Hurricane Katrina was such a time and serving as an equal partner in helping our stations and the communities they serve was the FCC. Clear Channel wishes to thank Chairman Martin for his personal commitment to the broadcasting community during this emergency. Clear Channel sincerely appreciates the real-world solutions offered by the FCC during and after Hurricane Katrina. Clear Channel was in constant communication with Mr. Peter Doyle, Chief, Audio Services Division, of the Media Bureau, speaking with him and other staff no less than ten times over the course of eight days. Mr. Doyle's assistance was invaluable during this extremely trying period and we wish to thank him publicly for his dedicated public service.

II. TEAMWORK INSIDE CLEAR CHANNEL.

On Thursday, August 25th, after it was determined that we were likely to have a hurricane event in Florida, we held a preparation conference call with over 140 of our Clear

Channel employees in the state of Florida and along the Gulf Coast. On that call, we discussed how to continue to provide live, local news without the normal studios. We identified where important equipment and supplies such as fuel, generators, transmitter and studio trucks, etc. could be located and began planning for swift transport. We also distributed our "Hurricane Preparation Checklist" which we update each time we weather another storm. In addition, we were able to identify and later utilize our Outdoor Division employees who had commercial truck drivers' licenses or hazardous materials permits, which are a prerequisite to transporting much-needed fuel.

In addition to relying on our employees, we were able to rely on the technical and equipment capital at Clear Channel to assist in this time of need. Given Clear Channel's long presence in the media marketplace (and experience dealing with natural disasters like hurricanes), Clear Channel has amassed a considerable stockpile of resources that were invaluable in helping our stations (and our fellow broadcasters) stay on air in these devastated communities. Before the hurricane, we directed satellite phones, satellite uplinks, a portable transmitter and antenna, some generators and fuel to southeast Florida, where landfall was expected. And on Saturday after learning from our TV weather people that the storm was likely to re-intensify and hit the Gulf Coast, we immediately held a Gulf Coast preparation conference call, and redirected all the resources that had been directed to southeast Florida to Mobile, Alabama.

On Sunday August 28th, it became clear that the situation was grave and we would have to abandon our New Orleans studios. We made plans to evacuate, but not without first ensuring that we could feed live local, pertinent news and information from other markets such as Baton Rouge into our New Orleans stations. The Governor of Louisiana ordered evacuation midday and the New Orleans staff turned over control to Clear Channel

Baton Rouge and evacuated the studio. However, the resources and interconnectivity of Clear Channel Radio ensured that specific local New Orleans news and weather programming originating from various Clear Channel stations via satellite made it into the community. We started a caravan to New Orleans and Biloxi with more generators, RVs, technicians, and our Outdoor Division people with trucks, cranes and other heavy equipment which we would need in a real disaster.

After the storm passed we had various outages stemming from satellite dishes being blown out of alignment, generators stopping, and other events. We hired a helicopter and flew engineers in to our remote tower sites and studios. We rescued our local DJ who helped us get back on the air and make repairs. Then we re-tasked the helicopter to a rescue effort ferrying out Entercom employees who had become trapped in their downtown New Orleans studios. We were able to secure generator service and later thousands of gallons of diesel fuel to the ATC site which Clear Channel shares with other broadcasters, radio and TV. This enabled us to help our fellow terrestrial broadcasters stay on the air. This ensured that the city of New Orleans was able to receive important, critical lifesaving information on a constant basis.

In Biloxi, Mississippi our studio roof was damaged and we had no power, but we had generators on the way from Raleigh, NC and had those installed not long after the power went out. This enabled us to originate local programming for our listeners, provide shelter and air-conditioning for our staff who were living there (most of whom have lost everything), and keep three of our four local Biloxi radio stations on the air with local news and information.

Other markets in the surrounding areas were adversely impacted as well. In Mobile, Pensacola, Meridian, MS and Hattiesburg/Laurel areas, our engineers worked tirelessly to get

generators up and running, antennas fixed so our stations could continue to provide local programming.

III. TEAMWORK WITH COMPETITORS

Broadcaster response nationwide to Hurricane Katrina was **immediate** and **massive**. From helping fellow broadcasters who were knocked off air, to filling 18-wheelers with relief supplies at station studios, to broadcasting 24/7 without commercial interruption to raise funds for victims, stations responded with an unprecedented outreach effort.

Perhaps the most unique aspect of this response was the number of creative partnerships formed among broadcasters who are often fierce competitors. In New Orleans – where the devastation was the worst – we have created the URNO (United Radio Broadcasters of New Orleans) which is run out of our facility in Baton Rouge. This is a cooperative effort between Clear Channel, Entercom and independent stations 1470 KLCL in Lake Charles and 1290 KJEF in Jennings whereby we created one very rich information stream. We simulcast this information on all frequencies owned by the stations that are on the air at any given moment. This continues to this day. It is manned by a combination of Clear Channel announcers and Entercom news personnel from WWL. The URNO broadcast is originating from Clear Channel studios in Baton Rouge. We have constructed a whole new broadcast center and are linked up with the Louisiana Emergency Operations Center. We are delivering programming via AM, FM, Internet and satellite.

IV. TEAMWORK WITH THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION.

When the situation became dangerous it was difficult for Clear Channel employees to transport the fuel over the flooded roads and our people were unsafe. The FCC was there to help. Through the FCC, we received a FEMA escort for our fuel deliveries which provided a closer source of fuel for the shared ATC tower site. This action helped enable

many broadcasters in New Orleans to stay on the air to reach the scared and confused public. In addition to this concrete help the FCC also was instrumental in helping us obtain security passes and clearances, securing federal protection for transmitter sites and studio locations, providing contacts with NCS, and most of all helping to get needed waivers and special temporary authority to continue our operations.

V. CONCLUSION

Clear Channel is extremely proud of the tireless work of so many in its family to assist communities in need during Hurricane Katrina. Even stations not located in those communities stood ready to help... and did. Again, Clear Channel thanks the FCC for its commitment to helping our stations during this difficult time. Thank you.