

OPASTCO 411

VITAL INFORMATION FOR OPASTCO MEMBERS ABOUT
THEIR INDUSTRY AND THEIR ORGANIZATION

OPASTCO Meets with FCC Commissioners' Staffs On Broadband Reporting

OPASTCO, the Independent Telephone and Telecommunications Alliance (ITTA), and the U.S. Telecom Association (USTelecom) today met with the staff of FCC Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate to discuss broadband reporting requirements. The associations were joined by the American Cable Association (ACA) for a similar meeting with the staff of Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein. The associations explained that while they support somewhat more granular broadband reporting, the Commission should not impose reporting by 9-digit zip codes because many carriers do not track customers this way. Such a mandate would be highly burdensome and impede broadband deployment while providing only marginally better broadband service availability data to the Commission.

For more information, contact Steve Pastorkovich, OPASTCO's director of business development/senior policy analyst, at 202/659-5990 or sfp@opastco.org.

House Judiciary Net Neutrality Hearing Set for Mar. 11

On March 11, the House Judiciary Committee's Antitrust Task Force will hold a hearing on network neutrality.

For more information, visit <http://judiciary.house.gov/Oversight.aspx?ID=427>.

Reminder: Small Carriers Exempt From FCC's New Backup Power Rule

On June 8, 2007, the FCC issued an Order to implement the Recommendations of the Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks. The Order contains a rule requiring that wireline and wireless carriers have emergency backup power for facilities that use commercial power. The rule mandates that carriers maintain emergency backup power for 24 hours for facilities in central offices and eight hours for facilities located in the field. To view the FCC's backup power Order, visit http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-07-107A1.pdf.

On Feb. 28, 2008, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit stayed the rules pending judicial review of the regulations.

The Order states that "We realize, however, that this requirement may present a financial burden to some small carriers. Accordingly we will not impose this requirement on LECs that meet the definition of a Class B company." At the bottom of the page, the footnote explains that a Class B ILEC is one with annual income below the \$134 million level. Further info on Class B ILECs can be found at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-07-1706A1.pdf.

Markey, Dingell Address Access to Sports Programming

At yesterday's House hearing on the sports programming marketplace, Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) expressed concern that barriers are preventing some multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs) from offering certain sports programming to their customers. Markey discussed the NFL Network and Big



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ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROMOTION
AND ADVANCEMENT OF SMALL
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES

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OPASTCO NEWS

IP POSSIBILITIES ROOM BLOCK ENDS TOMORROW

The 2008 IP Possibilities Conference, cosponsored by OPASTCO and NTCA, will be held April 7-11 at Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers in Chicago, Ill.

The deadline to obtain the IP Possibilities hotel room block discount is tomorrow. The discounted room rate is \$255 single/\$275 double. To make hotel reservations, visit www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=0710190524&key=EAC76.

The early bird registration discount deadline is March 10.

To register for the event, or to view a list of planned sessions, please visit the IP Possibilities Website at www.buildipnow.com.

L&R CONFERENCE ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE

OPASTCO and WTA's Joint L&R Conference will be held in Washington, D.C., from May 19-21. Join fellow rural carriers as they make themselves heard to policymakers and share the rural perspective on the telecom industry. Attendees will learn about OPASTCO's policy agenda and legislative and regulatory positions; hear the latest industry, state, FCC, and congressional perspectives toward current issues; and learn effective tips for lobbying Congress.

To register for the event online, visit www.opastco.org/site/meetings/legislative.

Ten Network's tiering restriction, NFL Sunday Ticket and Major League Baseball's Extra Innings' exclusivity arrangements with DirecTV, and the general overall trend of sports programming migrating from broadcast television to pay television services. To view Markey's statement, visit http://markey.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3284&Itemid=141.

Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) echoed Markey's concerns about the migration from broadcasting to pay television. Dingell said that because taxpayers finance public universities and oftentimes provide financial support for professional sports stadiums and arenas, they should be able to view local teams via broadcast television. To view Dingell's statement, visit http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press_110/110st136.shtml.

Bush Nominates Patel to Head NTIA

President Bush recently nominated Neil Patel to head the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA). Patel currently serves as an aide to Vice President Cheney.

Patel's nomination will be sent to the Senate for confirmation.

For more information, visit http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-280654A1.pdf.

Ford to Address Kansas Independent Association

On March 10, OPASTCO Regulatory Counsel Brian Ford will address the State Independent Telephone Association of Kansas' spring meeting. Ford will address current legislative and regulatory issues in Washington, including universal service and intercarrier compensation.

For more information, visit <http://sitaofks.hsdesigners.info/>.

Pastorkovich Addresses FTTH Meeting on Rural Telecom Issues

On March 5, OPASTCO Director of Business Development and Senior Policy Analyst Steve Pastorkovich appeared on a panel to discuss rural telecom issues at the Fiber to The Home Council's members meeting in Washington, D.C. Pastorkovich discussed potential Universal Service Fund (USF) support for broadband, access to video content, and other topics.

QUEBEC CONVENTION CALL FOR TOPICS DUE MARCH 14

The OPASTCO Education Committee invites members to submit proposals for educational sessions, workshops and panels for OPASTCO's upcoming summer convention in Quebec City, Canada. Proposals are due by March 14. Applicants will be notified of the status of their proposal by mid-April.

To submit your application online, visit www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=hgLOBTB_2bSqQmjxk_2fS_2fEEg_3d_3d.

BECOME A FRED CRUISE SPONSOR

If your company is looking for a great way to support FRED and offer OPASTCO members a fun time, consider becoming a FRED cruise sponsor today. The event takes place on Tuesday, July 15, in conjunction with the OPASTCO convention in Quebec City. More than 500 people are expected to be on the cruise.

Sponsorship options range from \$500 to \$3,500 and include casino tables, strolling magicians, caricaturists, musical entertainment, kids' activity area and more! All options can be co-sponsored by two or more companies, and the recognition can be tailored to your needs. For a complete list of options, or for more information, please contact FRED Director Melissa Korzuch at 703/680-7528 or mak@opastco.org. Remember, FRED sponsorships are tax-deductible!

CALL FOR FRED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Would you like to help FRED select scholarship or grant recipients? How about help direct fundraising efforts to generate support for our programs? If so, FRED is now accepting new members for its 2008 committees that administer programs and direct other aspects of the Foundation. Each committee has a different scope and meeting schedule.

To view descriptions of each committee, visit <http://www.fred.org/committees.html>.

To sign up for a committee, e-mail Stephanie Patton at sap@opastco.org.