

# OPASTCO 411

VITAL INFORMATION FOR OPASTCO MEMBERS ABOUT  
THEIR INDUSTRY AND THEIR ORGANIZATION



OPASTCO

ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROMOTION  
AND ADVANCEMENT OF SMALL  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES

## Senate Phantom Traffic Hearing Rescheduled for April 23

The Senate Commerce Committee recently rescheduled its hearing to address phantom traffic to April 23. The hearing had been scheduled for April 10 (411, March 11).

For more information, visit [http://commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&PressRelease\\_id=152c6315-09f0-4200-aa03-01c0dd1f8704&Month=3&Year=2008](http://commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&PressRelease_id=152c6315-09f0-4200-aa03-01c0dd1f8704&Month=3&Year=2008).

## Federal Appeals Court Stays New E-911 Location Accuracy Rules

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit recently stayed enforcement of the FCC's new E-911 location accuracy rules pending judicial review. The rules would mandate that carriers achieve E-911 Phase II location accuracy requirements at a geographic area defined by the public safety answering point (PSAP) service area level by 2012 (411, Nov. 27, 2007).

The first benchmark would require that local accuracy be made available within each Economic Area in which a carrier operates by Sept. 11, 2008. The second benchmark would require that local accuracy be made available at the Metropolitan Statistical Area and Rural Service Area by Sept. 11, 2010, with carriers required to provide local accuracy within at least 75 percent of PSAPs in their service areas by this date. Full compliance for all PSAPs would be required by Sept. 11, 2012. The Order would require carriers to meet annual benchmarks and file interim progress reports.

The court order is attached to this e-mail.

## FCC Requires DBS Service Providers To Carry Digital-Only Local Stations

The FCC recently adopted an Order requiring direct broadcast satellite (DBS) operators that choose to carry a local broadcast signal to carry all local broadcast signals in the same market. For a local station broadcasting only in digital, a DBS service provider must carry its signal digitally upon request. The Commission explains that this is necessary to ensure that DBS customers continue to receive the same broadcast stations after the digital television transition occurs.

The Order also requires DBS service providers to carry each station in the local market on the same terms, including carriage of high definition signals in high definition format if any local broadcaster in the same market is carried in high definition. This requirement will be phased-in over a four-year period in recognition of DBS service providers' capacity constraints.

The Commission also adopted a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) seeking comment on whether or not DBS service providers should be required to carry all local broadcast stations in both standard definition and high definition if they carry any local station in both standard definition and high definition.

To view the Order and FNPRM, visit [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-86A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-86A1.pdf).

MARCH 27, 2008

## OPASTCO NEWS

### REMINDER: "REINVENTING THE REVENUE STREAM" WEBINAR ON MONDAY

On Monday at 12:00 p.m., EDT, OPASTCO and Light Reading will co-host a Webinar entitled "Reinventing the Revenue Stream." The Webinar will address challenges that small rural carriers face in making the transition to next-generation broadband and all-IP networks. Strategies to ensure that service revenue does not migrate to third-party, over-the-top providers will be discussed. The presentation will consider solutions that participants can implement at their own companies.

Participants must register at the Light Reading Website in order to access the Webinar. To register, visit [http://www.lightreading.com/webinar.asp?doc\\_id=28761&promo=27068](http://www.lightreading.com/webinar.asp?doc_id=28761&promo=27068).

Please note that there is no need to dial-in to a conference number, as audio will play through your computer's speakers (Internet Explorer with RealPlayer or Windows Media is sufficient). There is no need to download any additional software or applications to participate; if pop-up blockers are in use, the "Ctrl" key should be held during log-in (it may be necessary to do so twice).

### QUEBEC CONVENTION, TRADESHOW, OPTIONAL TOURS REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Online registration for OPASTCO's 45th Annual Summer Convention, which will be held from July 12-16 in Quebec City, is now available.

Exhibitor registration for the Tradeshow, which will be held on July 15 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., is also available online.

In his statement on the Order, FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein addressed the capacity limitations of small cable operators with channel capacity of 552 MHz or less (411, March 18). Adelstein expressed his desire to see small operators receive the same level of fairness and consideration regarding dual carriage rules that DBS service providers received in this Order. To view Adelstein's statement, visit [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-86A4.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-86A4.pdf).

## FCC Grants AT&T's EAS Compliance Extension Request

The FCC recently granted AT&T's petition for an extension of the deadline to comply with new rules requiring multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs) to carry Emergency Alert System (EAS) alerts (411, Jan. 2). AT&T requested an extension until July 31 to overcome technical obstacles to offering EAS over its IP video services. The Commission instructed AT&T to inform customers of the extent to which it can currently provide EAS messages and its schedule to comply with the rules.

For more information, visit [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-08-710A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-710A1.pdf).

## FCC Denies Challenge to DE Spectrum Bidding Rules

The FCC recently ruled against Council Tree's petition for reconsideration of the Commission's reforms to its small business designated entity (DE) spectrum bidding program (411, Oct. 2, 2007). Council Tree had filed the petition in response to the FCC's Order to prevent small businesses that establish relationships with large carriers from participating in the DE program. The FCC's reforms to the program were intended to prohibit the awarding of bidding credits or other small business benefits to entities that have a significant "material relationship" with large, in-region incumbent wireless service providers.

For more information, visit [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-92A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-92A1.pdf).

## USAC Board Nominations Due April 24

The FCC is currently seeking nominations for two seats on the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) board of directors. The first position, representing competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs), would serve until Dec. 31, 2008. The second position, representing large interexchange carriers (IXCs), would serve until Dec. 31, 2009.

Nominations are due April 24.

For more information, visit [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-08-668A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-668A1.pdf).

Optional tours available for Quebec include the Discover Quebec Historical Tour, the Antique and Art Walking Tour, the Typical Dinner at the Sugar Shack, Quebec's Countryside Charms Tour, the Island of Orleans Tour, the Amerindians Tradition Tour, the Shopping in Quartier Petit-Champlain Tour, and the Whale Watching Excursion.

For registration information, visit <http://www.opastco.org/site/meetings/summer/>.

## IP POSSIBILITIES SET FOR APRIL 7-11 IN CHICAGO

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

Although the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers is now sold out, alternate hotels are available. They include Embassy Suites at 312/836-5900, the Fairmont Chicago at 312/565-8000, the Intercontinental Chicago at 312/944-4100, and the Westin at 312/943-9200.

To register for the event or to view a list of planned sessions, visit the IP Possibilities Website at <http://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.

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

## 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.

For more information, please contact FRED Director Melissa Korzuch at 703/680-7528 or [mak@opastco.org](mailto:mak@opastco.org).