



For Immediate Release

MSTV, NAB, Join with Nextel to Include Full BAS Relocation as Part of Consensus Plan to Resolve Public Safety Interference

Washington DC, May 3, 2004: The Association for Maximum Service Television, Inc. (MSTV), the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), and Nextel Communications, Inc. (NASDAQ: NEXL) today filed a joint submission with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to relocate the Broadcast Auxiliary Service (BAS) as part of the Public Safety Consensus Plan. Under the Consensus Plan, Nextel has offered to realign the 800 MHz spectrum band, thereby eliminating interference to public safety communications systems from commercial wireless operations. In return for Nextel's spectral and financial contributions to making the 800 MHz realignment possible, it will receive replacement spectrum at 1.9 GHz.

Nextel has agreed to fund the costs of relocating all incumbent BAS operators nationwide from the 1990-2025 MHz band. Broadcasters use the BAS spectrum for remote electronic newsgathering operations, which serve as a key component in local news coverage. The FCC's current BAS relocation plan has been criticized by NAB, MSTV and key members of the House Commerce Committee for impairing local stations' ability to provide live, local news coverage. Including BAS relocation as part of the Consensus Plan solves this significant problem for the FCC and the public.

In return for receiving replacement spectrum at 1.9 GHz, Nextel has agreed to provide relocation compensation for stations and deploy future Nextel service in a way that avoids limiting electronic newsgathering operations. The American public benefits from local stations in all television markets being able to provide the maximum level of remote electronic newsgathering.

Live, remote news coverage provided by local television stations serves as the most important source of news information to the American public in emergency situations. They are the key source of news that is ultimately carried by other communications services. In its most recent report, the FCC's Media Security and Reliability Council highlighted the importance of electronic newsgathering capability to our national security. Homeland Security Secretary Thomas Ridge also recognized the significance of television broadcasting in the context of national emergencies.

The television broadcast industry is delighted to join with the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO International), International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), International Association of Fire Chiefs, Inc. (IAFC) and hundreds of other public safety groups and officials in support of the Consensus Plan. MSTV, NAB, and Nextel urge the FCC to immediately adopt the Consensus Plan, including the relocation Plan for BAS.

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