



This Week's Headlines

Qwest Settlement Update

Viodi TV Convention Coverage On Web Site

All Minnesota ETCs Must Provide DTV Information

Order Also Applies to Video Providers

Dept. Of Commerce Requesting Your Assistance

Statewide Video Study Passes

FCC & Regulatory Filings

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Do you have an announcement for *People & Companies*? Send an e-mail (info@mnta.org) or fax (651-291-2795) to MTA.

[Save These Dates](#)

March 14, 2008

MTA UPDATE

Qwest Settlement Update

The MTA Regulatory, Tariffs & Services Committee's intercarrier compensation task force, which is working on behalf of MTA to reach a settlement to resolve the outstanding complaint against Qwest, met during the recent MTA convention to discuss Qwest's latest proposal. Qwest's current proposal revolves around Qwest withdrawing from LATA toll service in markets served by independent LECs. Qwest would continue to provide LATA toll in their own exchanges and would continue to provide TAB records for use by independent LECs for billing of terminating access. Among the issues raised that will be addressed by the task force in responding to Qwest's proposal include Qwest covering the costs associated with making the proposed transition and the need for Qwest to develop quality assurance metrics regarding all transit records.

Viodi TV Convention Coverage On Web Site

Video highlights from the MTA 99th Annual Convention, which were produced by Viodi TV and shown on the in-house television channels for the Hyatt and Millennium Hotels, is now available on the MTA Web site www.mnta.org. Check it out!

REGULATORY UPDATE

All Minnesota ETCs Must Provide DTV Information

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued an order requiring all eligible telecommunication carriers (ETCs) receiving federal universal service funds to provide Digital television (DTV) transition information in the monthly bills of their Lifeline/Link-Up customers. The notice may either be printed on the bill itself or be a separate bill stuffer. The FCC provided no exact wording to be followed stating only that the announcement must be noticeable and state that on February 17, 2009, full-power analog broadcasting will end and analog-only televisions may be unable to display full-power broadcast programming unless the viewer takes action.

MTA Golf Day
July 7, 2008

Stat of the Week

The Federal Communications Commission annually receives about 100,000 complaints from individuals and companies. Source: General Accounting Office

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Is there someone in your organization who you would like to add to the distribution list? Send their name, company, and e-mail address to info@mnta.org and we'll add them to the list.

WEEKLY BULLETIN is intended for MTA members. Redistribution is limited to internal audiences only.

If you wish to be removed from the MTA e-List, click here to [unsubscribe](#).

© copyright 2008,
Minnesota Telecom Alliance
www.mnta.org
Tel: 651-291-7311
Fax: 651-291-2795
E-mail: info@mnta.org

MTA Officers: John Finke,
Chairman; Robert K. Eddy,
Vice Chairman;
Paul Freude, Secretary-
Treasurer;
Michael J. Nowick, President

Weekly Bulletin editor:
Moses Dennis

The notice must also direct subscribers to resources for finding additional information on the DTV transition. Viewers can get more information about the transition at www.dtv2009.gov. or by calling the NTIA at 888-DTV-2009.

If the ETCs Lifeline/Link-Up customer does not receive paper bills, the customer must be provided with equivalent monthly notices in the format in which they receive their monthly bill. ETCs are also required to include this same basic information as part of any other Lifeline/Link-Up publicity campaigns that they engage in.

Order Also Applies to Video Providers

The FCC order also requires all multi-channel video programming distributors (MVPDs) to provide notice of the full-power DTV transition to their subscribers in monthly bills or billing notices. Monthly notices are to begin being sent to subscribers by MVPDs 30 days after the effective date of the rules and continue through March 2009. The MVPD notice and content requirements are similar to those of ETCs.

for Updating Its Telco List

Dept. Of Commerce Requesting Your Assistance

The Minnesota Department of Commerce is requesting the help of local telephone companies to update its Web site list of local providers and the corresponding areas in which they provide service. The Department is requesting that each local telephone service provider in the state complete a survey form, which can be accessed on the Department of Commerce Web site.

The form should be downloaded, completed electronically, and e-filed in Excel format in docket No. P99/PR-08-215. The updated date will be used to create a complete replacement for the information currently provided by the Web site tool. Compliance with the Department's request is voluntary, but only those carriers that provide complete information by April 15, 2008, will be included in the Local Carrier and Broadband Lookup on the Department's Web site. Companies may file updates with the Department at any time their information changes and the Web site will be corrected.

To access the survey form, [click here](#).

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Reprinted from Last Week

Statewide Video Study Passes

The House Telecom Regulation & Infrastructure Division at its final scheduled meeting of this session surprised cable companies by taking the statewide video franchising bill, HF 2351 from the table. The division deleted the bill's language and adopted a new delete-all amendment. It directs the Department of Commerce to contract for a study of at least three states that have already adopted state-wide authorized franchising. The purpose of the study is to gather information on the impact state-wide authorization of franchises has had on creating competition, creating new investment and its affect on local government and local programming. The report would be due to the legislature by February 1, 2009. The Senate will have until March 14th to act on the companion bill.



FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

MARCH 31: LIFELINE & LINK-UP WORKSHEET DUE: FCC FORM 497, last day to submit revisions to Form 497 for 2006 and all months prior to January 2007

MARCH 31: UNIVERSAL SERVICE QUARTERLY LINE COUNT UPDATE: FCC FORM 507, line count updates are required to recalculate a carrier's per-line universal service support and covers lines served as of September 30, 2007

MARCH 31: COMPETITIVE CARRIER LINE COUNT QUARTERLY REPORT: FCC FORM 525, competitive eligible telecommunication carriers are eligible to receive high-cost support if they serve lines in an incumbent LECs service area, and that incumbent carrier receives high-cost support. The report covers lines served as of September 30, 2007

MARCH 31: PROJECTED ANNUAL COMMON LINE REVENUE REQUIREMENT FORM: FCC FORM 508, rate-of-return incumbent carriers filing due to USAC to enable the calculation of the annual common line revenue requirement for each study area served in order for the carrier to be eligible to receive Interstate Common Line support

APRIL 1: FCC FORM 499-A: TELECOMMUNICATIONS REPORTING WORKSHEET: This form must be filed by all contributors to the Universal Service Fund support mechanisms, the Telecommunications Relay Service Fund, the cost recovery mechanism for the North American Numbering Plan Administration and the shared costs of local number portability.

APRIL 21: LOW INCOME QUARTERLY REPORT: FCC FORM 497, this form, the Lifeline and Link-Up Worksheet must be submitted to USAC by all ETCs that request reimbursement for participating in the low income program

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

MTA & Industry Meetings/Events This Week

March 11: MTA Regulatory, Tariffs & Services Committee

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

March 18: MTA Legislative Committee, MTA office, 9:30 a.m.

March 26-27: MTA Day on the Hill, Embassy Suites, St. Paul

For a look at 12 months and more of industry events, [click here](#)

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Terry VanWatermulen, field operations supervisor for **Embarq**, will represent the MTA on the Gopher State One Call Board of Directors. VanWatermulen will succeed Ron Moore.

Preston Pearson is joining **CHR Solutions** as senior director, engineering and systems integration, for CHR's Midwest operations. He brings significant telecom experience from his last role as the information technology and engineering manager at **Hutchinson Telephone Company** and Telecommunications Inc. of Minnesota. The company also announced that **Rick Overman** has been appointed to the newly created position of chief development officer.

Do you have an announcement for *People & Companies*? Send an e-mail (info@mnta.org) or fax (651-291-2795) to MTA

