



Advanced Television Systems Committee

Mark S. Richer
President

April 2, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte
MB-Docket No. 03-15, RM 9832, Second Periodic Review of the Commissions
Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion to Digital Television

Dear Ms. Dortch,

This is to notify you that the attached letter regarding the ATSC PSIP Standard was sent via email to Chairman Powell on April 1, 2003.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Richer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end.



Advanced Television Systems Committee

Mark S. Richer
President

April 1, 2003

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell,

I am writing you to address concerns about the ATSC PSIP Standard raised by Congressman Markey in his letter of January 29, 2003.

As you know, the ATSC is a non-profit organization developing voluntary standards for digital television. ATSC member organizations represent the broadcast, broadcast equipment, motion picture, consumer electronics, computer, cable, satellite, and semiconductor industries. The FCC adopted the major elements of the ATSC Digital Television (DTV) Standard, mandating its use for digital terrestrial television broadcasts in the U.S. ATSC has also developed the Program and System Information Protocol (PSIP) Standard which is an important element of the DTV system.

We understand the concern expressed by Congressman Markey regarding our PSIP Standard and we want to assure you that it was not our intent to freeze the content advisory system. The text in the PSIP Standard is meant to inform the reader that the content advisory system is pre-defined by the EIA/CEA-766-A Standard and therefore it is not necessary to transmit the Region Rating Table (RRT) information. However, we have revised the PSIP standard with clarifications in the text that describe the methodology that may be used to extend or replace the content advisory system currently in use. The revised version of PSIP (A65B) is available on the ATSC web site (www.atsc.org).

We would be happy to review the detailed aspects of this issue with the Commission's technical staff.

Sincerely,