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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

June 18, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Presentation – MB Docket No. 03-15

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On June 17, 2003, Larry Roadman of MTC North, Inc. (“MTC”), and Caressa D. Bennet and Gregory Whiteaker of Bennet & Bennet, PLLC met with Rick C. Chessen, Associate Bureau Chief, Digital Television Task Force, of the Media Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”), to discuss MTC’s Reply Comments regarding the FCC’s *Second Periodic Review of the DTV Conversion*.¹ Ms. Bennet and Messrs. Roadman and Whiteaker stressed the need for the FCC to adopt firm deadlines and provide certainty regarding the transition to digital television and the clearing of Lower 700 MHz Spectrum, particularly the spectrum that has already been licensed through competitive bidding.

Mr. Whiteaker explained that there are significant numbers of rural 700 MHz licensees who are willing to provide service and as whose license areas are not encumbered by incumbent broadcasters, but who are currently not able to deploy systems because equipment manufacturers and investors need greater certainty regarding the digital transition in order to develop, produce, and fund cost effective systems. Mr. Roadman noted that the deployment of broadband services to rural and other underserved areas is a major policy objective of Congress and the Commission. Mr. Roadman explained that 700 MHz spectrum is an ideal solution for delivering these broadband services and that the primary impediment to such deployment is the lack of regulatory clarity.

¹ *In the Matter of Second Periodic Review of the Commission’s Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion to Digital Television, Public Interest Obligations of TV Broadcast Licensees, Children’s Television Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters, Standardized and Enhanced Disclosure Requirements for Television Broadcast Licensee Public Interest Obligations*, MB Docket No. 03-15 *et al.*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 03-08 (released January 27, 2003)(“NPRM”).

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the undersigned counsel.

Sincerely,

Gregory W. Whiteaker

cc: Rick C. Chessen

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