
FCC Identifies Stations Which Must Undertake Additional DTV Transition-Related Information/Assistance Efforts in Order to Terminate Analog Service on February 17, 2009

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Pursuant to the FCC's February 5th Public Notice, "Procedures Regarding Termination of Analog Television Service On or After February 17, 2009," any station wishing to early terminate analog operation was required to notify the FCC no later than February 9th. On February 10, the FCC released a list of the 491 stations that had filed this notification indicating their intent to terminate analog operations on February 17th. Yesterday evening, February 11th, the FCC announced that 123 of these stations will be required to undertake supplemental public interest initiatives in order to proceed with analog termination on February 17th. A copy of this list is attached.

As outlined in the attached Public Notice, any station listed that wishes to proceed with analog termination on February 17th must file a "Certification/Alternate Showing: Analog termination on February 17, 2009" form with the FCC no later than 6:00 EST Friday, February 13th representing that a number of additional DTV-related information/assistance efforts will be undertaken. Stations that certify to these conditions will be permitted to cease analog operation without receiving any additional authorization from the FCC.

If a station does not wish to make this certification, it may make an alternative showing to the FCC that "extraordinary, exigent circumstances, such as the unavoidable loss of their analog site or extreme economic hardship, require that they terminate their analog service on February 17th." The FCC has indicated that a very high burden will apply to this showing. Further, stations making such a showing must await a decision by the FCC prior to terminating analog operation.

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