Broadcast LAW BLOG



Comment Deadline on Video Description Rulemaking Extended

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April 4, 2011

The FCC just granted a two week extension of time for comments on the FCC's proceeding to establish requirements for the provision of audio description of video programming. Comments are now due on April 25, and replies on May 23. The Commission proposed in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking which we summarized here, as required by the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, that the Top 4 network television stations in in the Top 25 markets as well as television networks and other large multichannel video programming distributors, describe their video programming for those who are visually impaired. The description would be provided aurally, presumably using a secondary audio channel or similar technology to provide this verbal description of the video programming. Groups including the National Federation for the Blind and the Consumer Electronic Association requested a month-long extension in the comment date but, as Congress has required that these rules go into effect at the beginning of 2012, the Commission felt that it could only justify a two week extension and still be able to meet the statutory deadline. So have those comments ready by April 25.

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