

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

A. Justification

1. **47 CFR Section 76.56** requires cable television systems to carry signals of all qualified local commercial and Noncommercial Educational (NCE)¹ stations when requested. As a result of this requirement, the following information collections are needed to implement this regulation:

47 CFR Section 76.1708 requires that the operator of every cable television system shall maintain for public inspection the designation and location of its principal headend. If an operator changes the designation of its principal headend, that new designation must be included in its public file.

47 CFR Section 76.1709(a) states effective June 17, 1993, the operator of every cable television system shall maintain for public inspection a file containing a list of all broadcast television stations carried by its system in fulfillment of the must-carry requirements pursuant to 47 CFR Section 76.56. Such list shall include the call sign; community of license, broadcast channel number, cable channel number, and in the case of a noncommercial educational broadcast station, whether that station was carried by the cable system on March 29, 1990.

47 CFR Sections 76.1614 and 1709(c) states that a cable operator shall respond in writing within 30 days to any written request by any person for the identification of the signals carried on its system in fulfillment of the requirements of 47 CFR Section 76.56.

47 CFR Section 76.1620, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 614(b)(7), additionally states that if a cable operator authorizes subscribers to install additional receiver connections, but does not provide the subscriber with such connections, or with the equipment and materials for such connections, the operator shall notify such subscribers of all broadcast stations carried on the cable system which cannot be viewed via cable without a converter box and shall offer to sell or lease such a converter box to such subscribers. Such notification must be provided by June 2, 1993, and annually thereafter and to each new subscriber upon initial installation. The notice, which may be included in routine billing statements, shall identify the signals that are unavailable without an additional connection, the manner for obtaining such additional connection and instructions for installation.

¹ The terms “noncommercial educational broadcast station” and “public broadcast station” mean a television or radio broadcast station under the rules and regulations of the Commission in effect on November 2, 1978, is eligible to be licensed by the Commission as a noncommercial educational radio or television broadcast station and which is owned and operated by a public agency or nonprofit private foundation, corporation, or association; or is owned and operated by a municipality and which transmits only noncommercial programs for education purposes.

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March 2017

Title: Cable Television System Signal Carriage Obligation Recordkeeping: Section 76.1708, Principal Headend; Sections 76.1709 and 76.1620, Availability of Signals; Section 76.1614, Identification of Must-Carry Signals; Section 76.56, Signal Carriage Obligations

This information collection does not affect individuals or households; thus, there are no impacts under the Privacy Act.

Statutory authority for this collection of information is contained in Sections 4(i), 614 and 615 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

2. These recordkeeping and notification requirements ensure that subscribers are aware of the broadcast stations carried in compliance with the must-carry rules, the location of the cable system's principal headend used to determine, in part, which stations must be carried, the placement of that channel on the cable system, and the identification of signals that cannot be viewed without a converter box. The records kept by cable television systems also are reviewed by Commission staff during field inspections and by local public officials to assess the systems' compliance with applicable rules and regulations.

3. Use of information technology is not feasible in this situation.

4. This agency does not impose similar information collection requirements on the respondents.

5. This information collection requirement does not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small businesses.

6. If this information collection requirement were not to be conducted, records that verify compliance with the Commission's signal carriage and must-carry requirements would not be readily available.

7. There are no special circumstances associated with this information collection requirement.

8. The Commission published a Notice (82 FR 12225) in the *Federal Register* on May 1, 2017 seeking comments for the public on the information collection requirements contained in this supporting statement. No comments were received from the public.

9. There will be no payment or gifts given to respondents.

10. There is no need for confidentiality with this information collection.

11. This information collection requirement does not address any private matters of a sensitive nature.

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12. The estimate burden on the public is as follows:

Total Number of Annual Respondents: 5,100 Cable Systems

Total Number of Annual Responses:

5,100 list of must-carry signals/records for public file

51,000 responses for request for information from cable operator

5,100 notices

61,200 responses

Annual Burden Hours:

There are approximately 5,100 cable television systems subject to must-carry requirements. We estimate that it takes each system no more than one hour per year to draft the list of must-carry television stations carried on the system, to note the designation and location of the system's principal headend and to maintain this information in a public file.

(A) 5,100 cable TV systems x 1 hour processing of must carry list/system/annum = 5,100 hours

We also estimate that each system receives no more than 10 written requests for such information per year and that each request from the public takes an average of a half-hour (0.5 hours) to fulfill.

(B) 5,100 cable TV systems x 10 written requests for information/system/annum x 0.5 hrs. = 25,500 hours

Total Annual Burden Hours: 5,100 hours + 25,500 hours = **30,600 hours**

The notice requirement set forth in Section 76.1620 is assumed to be conducted by cable television systems as part of customary and usual business practices. In addition, the notice may be routinely computer-generated and pre-printed as part of regular customer billing statements. Therefore, this notice requirement is assumed to impose no measurable burden to respondents.

Total Annual "In-house costs": We estimate an average hourly wage of \$48.08 per hour for individuals tasked with the recordkeeping and notification requirements.

30,600 hours @ \$48.08 per hour = **\$ 1,471,248**

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This estimate is based on Commission staff's knowledge and familiarity with the availability of the data required.

13. Annual Cost Burden:

- (a) Total annualized capital/startup costs: None
- (b) Total annual costs (O&M): None
- (c) Total annualized cost requested: None

14. There is no cost to the Federal Government.

15. There are no program changes or adjustments to this collection.

16. These data will not be published for statistical use.

17. We do not seek approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of this information collection.

18. There are no other exceptions to the Certification Statement.

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

No statistical methods are employed.