

Containing Metalaxyl, Maneb, Mancozeb, and Chlorothalonil. March 23, 1995.

13. Hummel, Susan V. Potential Section 18 use on Turnip, Mustard, and Collards. February 21, 1995.

List of subjects

Environmental protection,
Administrative practice and procedure,
Pesticides and pest, Reporting and
recording requirements.

Dated: July 31, 1996.

Daniel M. Barolo,

Director, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 96-20458 Filed 8-13-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[MM Docket No. 95-176, FCC 96-318]

Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming

AGENCY: Federal Communications
Commission.

ACTION: Notice; Report to Congress.

SUMMARY: Section 305 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 adds a new section 713, Video Programming Accessibility, to the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. Section 713 directs the Commission to conduct inquiries and report to Congress on the accessibility of video programming to persons with hearing and visual disabilities. On July 29, 1996, the Commission submitted its *Report* to Congress. As required by Section 713, the *Report* provides information on the availability of closed captioning for persons with hearing impairments and assesses the appropriate methods for phasing video description into the marketplace to benefit persons with visual disabilities. The *Report* is based on information submitted by commenters in response to a *Notice of Inquiry* in this docket and publicly available information. The *Report* is intended to provide Congress with the Commission's findings regarding closed captioning and video description of video programming as mandated by Section 713.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marcia Glaubergerman or John Adams, Cable Services Bureau (202) 418-7200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's *Report* in MM Docket No. 95-176, FCC 96-318, adopted July 25, 1996, and released on

July 29, 1996. The full text of the *Report* is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20554, and may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service ("ITS, Inc."), (202) 857-3800, 2100 M Street, N.W., Suite 140, Washington, D.C. 20037.

Synopsis of the Order

1. Section 305 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996), adds a new section 713, Video Programming Accessibility, to the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. Section 713(a) requires the Commission to report to Congress by August 6, 1996, on the results of an inquiry conducted to ascertain the level at which video programming is closed captioned. Specifically, Section 713(a) directs the Commission to examine the extent to which existing or previously published programming is closed captioned, the size of the video programming provider or programming owner providing closed captioning, the size of the market served, the relative audience shares achieved and any other related factors.

2. The Commission also is required to establish regulations and implementation schedules to ensure that video programming is fully accessible through closed captioning within 18 months of the enactment of the section on February 8, 1996. The Commission will initiate a rulemaking proceeding to implement this provision within the next several months with the issuance of a notice of proposed rulemaking in order to prescribe regulations by August 8, 1997.

3. Section 713(f) requires the Commission to commence an inquiry within six months after the date of enactment to examine the use of video descriptions on video programming to ensure the accessibility of video programming to persons with visual impairments. It requires the Commission to report to Congress on its findings, including an assessment of the appropriate methods and schedules for phasing video descriptions into the marketplace, technical and quality standards for video descriptions, a definition of programming for which video descriptions would apply, and other technical and legal issues that the Commission deems appropriate.

4. The *Report* is based on comments filed in response to a *Notice of Inquiry* in this docket, summarized at 60 FR 65052 (December 18, 1995), that sought

comment on a wide range of issues relating to closed captioning and video description of video programming and publicly available information.

5. Key findings of the *Report* include:

Closed Captioning

- The primary beneficiaries of closed captioning are the approximately 22.4 million persons who are hearing disabled.
- Between 50 and 60 million U.S. homes have access to closed captioning. As a result of the Television Decoder Circuitry Act of 1990 and the Commission's implementing rules, all television receivers with screen sizes 13 inches or larger must be capable of receiving and displaying closed captions.
- Through the efforts of Congress, government agencies and a variety of private parties, captioned video programming has grown over the past 25 years and is now a common feature of many video programming types. Most nationally broadcast prime time television programming and nationally broadcast children's programming news, daytime programming and some sports programming, both commercial and noncommercial, is now captioned. New feature films produced in the U.S. that will be distributed by broadcast networks, cable networks, syndicators and local stations following their theatrical release are now captioned at the production stage. Local broadcast stations also frequently caption the portions of their local newscasts that are scripted in advance. Many of the national satellite cable programming networks distribute programming containing closed captions.
- Certain types of programming, however, are unlikely to be captioned, including non-English language programming, home shopping programming, weather programming that includes a large amount of visual and graphic information, live sports, and music programming. Captions are less likely to be included in programming intended to serve smaller or specialized audience markets.
- There is a wide range in the costs of closed captioning that reflects the method of adding the captions, the quality of the captions and the entity providing the captions. For pre-recorded programming, estimates of the cost of captioning range from \$800 to \$2500 per hour of programming. Estimates for the costs of captioning live programming range from \$150 to \$1200 per hour. The Department of Education provided about \$7.9 million for closed captioning last year, which represents roughly 40% of the total amount spent on captioning.

Video Description

• Video description is an emerging service with only limited availability today. In contrast with the widespread availability of closed captioning, video descriptions are transmitted with only a small number of programs. As a consequence, the present record on which to assess video description is limited and the emerging nature of the service renders definitive conclusions difficult. The general accessibility of video description is dependent on the resolution of certain technical, legal and cost issues.

• There are approximately 8.6 million individuals who are blind or visually disabled, according to the National Center for Health Statistics, who might benefit from video description.

• Not all broadcast stations or other video distributors are able to transmit the secondary audio programming or "SAP" channel needed to provide video description and only about half of the nation's homes have a television with the capability to receive the SAP channel. Currently, video description is only available on some Public Broadcasting Service ("PBS") programming and a limited number of cable satellite programming networks.

• Video description requires the development of a second script containing the narration of actions taking place in the video programming that are not reflected in the existing dialogue. The cost of video description are approximately one and a half times the costs associated with closed captioning similar programming.

• Obstacles to the development of video description have been the limited availability of SAP channels, the use of SAP channels for other audio tracks, including non-English language programming, limited funding by government and other sources and unresolved copyright issues related to the creation of a second script.

• The Commission will continue to monitor the deployment of video description and the development of standards for new video technologies that will afford greater accessibility of video description. Specifically, the Commission will seek additional information that will permit a better assessment of video description in conjunction with its 1997 report to Congress assessing competition in the video market place that is required by Section 628(g) of the Communications Act.

Ordering Clauses

6. This *Report* is issued pursuant to authority contained in Sections 4(i), 4(j),

403 and 713 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 154(j), 403 and 613.

7. It is *ordered* that the Secretary shall send copies of this Report to the appropriate committees and subcommittees of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate.

Federal Communications Commission.

William F. Caton,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-20640 Filed 8-13-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-U

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

[FEMA-1128-DR]

Michigan; Amendment to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice of a major disaster for the State of Michigan (FEMA-1128-DR), dated July 23, 1996, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 31, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pauline C. Campbell, Response and Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3606.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of a major disaster for the State of Michigan, is hereby amended to include the following area among those areas determined to have been adversely affected by the catastrophe declared a major disaster by the President in his declaration of July 23, 1996:

Midland County for Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 83.516, Disaster Assistance)

William C. Tidball,

Associate Director, Response and Recovery Directorate.

[FR Doc. 96-20721 Filed 8-13-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-02-P

[FEMA-1127-DR]

North Carolina; Amendment to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice of a major disaster for the State of North

Carolina (FEMA-1127-DR), dated July 18, 1996, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 2, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pauline C. Campbell, Response and Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3606.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of a major disaster for the State of North Carolina, is hereby amended to include the following areas among those areas determined to have been adversely affected by the catastrophe declared a major disaster by the President in his declaration of July 18, 1996:

Bladen and Greene Counties for Individual Assistance, Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation.

Chowan County for Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation.
(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 83.516, Disaster Assistance)

Dennis H. Kwiatkowski,

Deputy Associate Director, Response and Recovery Directorate.

[FR Doc. 96-20722 Filed 8-13-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-02-P

[FEMA-1122-DR]

Ohio; Amendment to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice of a major disaster for the State of Ohio (FEMA-1122-DR), dated June 24, 1996, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 2, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pauline C. Campbell, Response and Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3606.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of a major disaster for the State of Ohio, is hereby amended to include the following areas among those areas determined to have been adversely affected by the catastrophe declared a major disaster by the President in his declaration of June 24, 1996:

Hocking and Vinton Counties for Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 83.516, Disaster Assistance.)

Dennis H. Kwiatkowski,

Deputy Associate Director, Response and Recovery Directorate.

[FR Doc. 96-20741 Filed 8-13-96; 8:45 am]

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