



NEWS

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See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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HOMELAND SECURITY: INDUSTRY LEADERS ADOPT RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF MEDIA FACILITIES DURING EMERGENCIES

Washington, D.C. – Leaders from the broadcast, cable and satellite industries have adopted forty-nine best practices recommendations to ensure the continued operation and security of media facilities in times of a national emergency. The recommendations were recently adopted by the FCC’s Media Security and Reliability Council (MSRC).

“The adoption of these recommendations underscores the commitment of the FCC and the media industry to secure and protect our homeland,” said FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell said. “I am pleased that the Council has acted upon these recommendations so swiftly.”

Key recommendations include:

- Media companies should have appropriate physical security at their key facilities.
- Media companies should take appropriate measures to provide backup power capabilities for their key facilities.
- Media companies with local news origination should ensure that they have robust and redundant ways to communicate with external news services and remote news teams.
- All local media in a market should collaborate to increase their collective geographic diversity and to establish redundant interconnections capable of supporting emergency operations.
- Media companies should develop and implement written disaster recovery plans, update them as events warrant, and regularly conduct emergency drills at least once a year.
- Media companies should have the ability to access alternate telecommunications capabilities.

The full text of these and other recommendations previously adopted by the Council are available at <http://www.fcc.gov/MSRC>.

The recommendations were presented to members of the MSRC at its biannual meeting at the FCC on November 6, 2003. The 41-member Council completed voting on these recommendations November 26, 2003.

MSRC is a Federal Advisory Committee that reports to FCC Chairman Michael Powell. Chairman Powell formed MSRC following the events of September 11, 2001, in order to study, develop and report on best practices designed to assure the optimal reliability, robustness and security of the broadcast and multichannel video programming distribution industries.

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