



NEWS

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

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HOMELAND SECURITY: MEDIA SECURITY AND RELIABILITY COUNCIL HOLDS FINAL MEETING UNDER INITIAL TWO YEAR CHARTER

FCC Releases Emergency Preparedness Guide for Local Media and Announces Rechartering of Council

Washington, D.C. – Leaders from the broadcast television, radio, cable and satellite industries today held the final meeting of a two-year initiative designed to develop ways to ensure the continued operation and security of media facilities in times of emergency

The meeting was the fifth and final meeting under the initial charter of the FCC's Media Security and Reliability Council (MSRC). During the meeting, the FCC announced the creation of a "Readiness Guide for Local Media on How to Prepare for Emergencies." The pamphlet is a summary of MSRC's leading best practices and highlights other sources of information useful to local media companies in preparing for emergencies.

Today, Chairman Powell also announced that earlier in the day he met with Department of Homeland Secretary Ridge and they agreed to cosponsor a public forum in June to examine the media/government relationship in emergencies and explore ways to strengthen this relationship at the local level. Chairman Powell noted that the forum "will serve as a launching board for the work of MSRC II."

At the meeting, the Council adopted nineteen final best practice recommendations intended to strengthen emergency communications and promote the physical security and redundancy of broadcast television, radio and satellite facilities.

"The Council's recommendations are designed to strengthen homeland security in the media sector. The depth and breadth of these recommendations is impressive," said Chairman Powell. "Our work, however, is not yet complete. It is critical that MSRC's recommendations reach the people that can best implement them – local media."

Dennis J. FitzSimons, Chairman and Chief Executive Office of Tribune Company who served as Chairman of MSRC said, "Today we turn over a blueprint for action. The next phase is to convert these suggestions into planned reality."

The FCC also announced it plans to re-charter MSRC with new priority initiatives.

MSRC is a Federal Advisory Committee that reports to FCC Chairman Michael K. 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.

Other accomplishments during MSRC's two year charter include:

- The adoption of twenty-six best practices recommendations aimed at ensuring the effective delivery of emergency information to the public.
- The adoption of fifty-eight best practices recommendations relating to the physical security and restoration of media facilities.

For further details about MSRC, to review all the best practice recommendations, or to download a copy of the "Readiness Guide for Local Media on How to Prepare for Emergencies" visit the FCC's MSRC webpage at: <http://www.fcc.gov/MSRC/>.

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