

MINUTES

INDEPENDENT PANEL REVIEWING THE IMPACT OF HURRICANE KATRINA ON COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, January 30, 2006 (First Meeting)

LOCATION: Commission Meeting Room (TW-C305), Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C.

PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy J. Victory (Chair), Carson Agnew, Michael Anderson, Robert G. Bailey, Kevin Beary, Greg Bicket, Joseph Booth, Steve Davis, Robert G. Dawson, Stephen A. Dean, Steve Delahousey, Dave Flessas, Martin D. Hadfield, Jim O. Jacot, Tony Kent, Kelly Kirwan, Jonathan D. Linkous, Adora Obi Nweze, Eduardo Pena, Billy Pitts, Michael Sauter, Marion Scott, Kay Sears, Edmund M. Sexton, Sr., Edwin D. Smith, William L. Smith and Patrick Yoes

FCC PERSONNEL PRESENT: Kevin J. Martin (FCC Chairman), Lisa Fowlkes (Designated Federal Officer), Jean Ann Collins (Alternate Designated Federal Officer)

Note: Although other Commissioners were not present at the meeting, their pre-recorded video statements were displayed at the meeting.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: There were an estimated total of 50 members of the public present at the meeting. No member of the public addressed the Panel.

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED TO PANELISTS AT MEETING: Agenda for January 30, 2006 Meeting, Charter of the Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks (Panel), Briefing Sheet on Federal Advisory Committee Act, Power Point Slide Presentation from Louisiana State Police, Written Presentation and Supplements from Notification Technologies, Inc.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the meeting was to kick off a study of the impact of Hurricane Katrina on the communications infrastructure, including public safety communications and what steps the Panel might recommend to the FCC to improve disaster preparedness, network reliability, and communications among first responders.

CALL OF MEETING TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS

Nancy J. Victory called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission Meeting Room with opening remarks. Specifically, she acknowledged the participation of Chairman Kevin J. Martin at the meeting as well as the efforts and support of Commissioners Michael J. Copps, Jonathan Adelstein and Deborah Taylor Tate. Ms. Victory also welcomed the Panel members and acknowledged Lisa M. Fowlkes and Jean

Ann Collins, the Designated Federal Officer and Alternate Designated Federal Officer of the Panel, respectively.

Ms. Victory discussed the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina and the need to be better prepared for future disasters. Specifically, she noted the need to: (1) assess the strengths and weaknesses of the communications sector's preparedness for the storm, (2) identify the impediments to and facilitators of rapid service restoration, and (3) evaluate whether adequate emergency communications were available before, during, and after the storm.

Ms. Victory emphasized the diverse array of private and public communication sector participation on the Panel. She also emphasized that the Panel will aggressively seek information and suggestions from other interested and knowledgeable parties and will provide several opportunities for public input, which she strongly urged interested parties to take advantage of. She further stated the Panel will be operated in an open and transparent manner, so that the public can follow the Panel's information-gathering process and consideration of recommendations. She urged interested parties to participate, and thus help the Panel accomplish its important mission.

WELCOMING REMARKS

Chairman Kevin Martin

Chairman Martin welcomed the Panel and thanked each Panel member for taking time out of their busy schedules to participate on the Panel.

Chairman Martin also thanked his colleagues, Commissioner Cops and Commissioner Adelstein, who both visited the region and were supportive of the idea of moving forward with the Panel. Chairman Martin noted Commissioner Tate had been very supportive since she arrived at the Commission, as well. He further noted that while Commissioners Cops, Adelstein and Tate were unable to attend the meeting due to travel, the Panel could rest assured that they are very supportive and that the Panel would hear from each of them.

Chairman Martin thanked Nancy Victory for her willingness to chair the Panel and remarked that everyone would benefit from her knowledge and experience in this area.

Chairman Martin noted that this Panel represents the first time the Commission has brought together experts from all sectors of the communications industry in one forum to study the impact of a disaster and develop recommendations to improve the response and recovery efforts for the future. Chairman Martin also noted that this endeavor brings public safety organizations directly into the heart of the process.

In addition, Chairman Martin recognized the representatives from the NAACP and LULAC and noted the importance of community-based input in addressing issues of emergency preparedness and response.

With respect to the FCC's request that the Panel submit a final report in June, Chairman Martin acknowledged that this was a short timeframe, but emphasized the critical need for the FCC to be able to take the next steps that will be necessary from the Commission's standpoint.

Commissioner Cops (pre-recorded video statement)

Commissioner Cops welcomed the Panel members and thanked them for serving on the Panel. Commissioner Cops commended Chairman Martin and FCC staff for their tireless efforts to aid in the recovery immediately after Hurricane Katrina. He also saluted the companies for the work they did in response to the disaster. Commissioner Cops told the Panel it was charged with working together to serve the public interest, which demands a thorough look, perhaps making some very difficult calls, digging out the facts and making them known, and letting the chips fall where they may. He emphasized that it is the Panel's job to be tough and diligent in getting the answers and making the hard calls. In this respect, Commissioner Cops noted that the Panel's work will not only help the Commission and industry, but could also assist Congress and help other federal agencies, state and local governments, first responders, and the entire public safety law enforcement and healthcare provider communities.

Commissioner Adelstein (pre-recorded video statement)

Commissioner Adelstein thanked the Panel members for their willingness to serve on the Panel. He also thanked Ms. Victory for agreeing to serve as the Panel's Chair. Commissioner Adelstein spoke of his impressions when he visited the Gulf Coast shortly after Hurricane Katrina. He stated that the devastation was worse than he could have imagined, but he was really impressed with how well the telecommunications companies responded. Commissioner Adelstein stressed the need to help wireless, wireline, media, and satellite providers and public safety entities to better prepare, respond and recover from an emergency or from a disaster. He also emphasized the need to determine what happened by conducting the most critical analysis possible. Commissioner Adelstein commended the Panel for helping to tackle these issues and commended Chairman Martin and the FCC staff for their response to the hurricanes.

Commissioner Tate (pre-recorded video statement)

Commissioner Tate extended a personal greeting to Panel members as they begin the important job of serving on the Panel, not only for the FCC, but for the country. Commissioner Tate told the Panel she was home in Tennessee when the hurricane hit the Gulf Coast, so she heard first-hand of the devastation. Since the FCC oversees major infrastructures that are critical to the nation's ability to respond, she stated we must continue to learn from these events and prepare for tomorrow. Commissioner Tate ended her statement praising the FCC staff for their assistance and thanking Ms. Victory for her leadership and each Panel member for their participation.

PANEL'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Ms. Victory explained that the Panel is charged with: (1) studying the impact of Hurricane Katrina on all sectors of the telecommunications and media industries, including public safety communications; (2) reviewing the sufficiency and effectiveness of the recovery effort with respect to this infrastructure; and (3) making recommendations to the Commission regarding ways to improve disaster preparedness, network reliability, and communications among first responders such as police, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel. Ms. Victory stated these recommendations are due to the Commission no later than June 15, 2006.

Ms. Victory stressed that the Panel was formed under and operated pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act. As such, the Panel would conduct itself in an open and transparent manner. Specifically, all Panel meetings will be public and prior public notice of these meetings will be provided. Information submitted for the Panel's consideration will be made publicly available, and draft reports and recommendations for the Panel's consideration will also be made publicly available. Additionally, Ms. Victory stated the Panel is receptive to and encourages written submissions from interested members of the public. She also explained the process for filing written comments.

Ms. Victory noted that the Panel would use its next meeting, likely to be scheduled in early March, to receive oral presentations from interested parties. She also described the procedures by which interested parties could request the opportunity to give oral presentations.

Ms. Victory announced the formation of three informal working groups that would be charged with helping the Panel to effectively review and process the necessary information within the time required. Ms. Victory stressed that these working groups are not decision-making bodies, but rather will compile and sort information in particular issue areas for presentation to the full Panel.

These informal working groups are as follows:

- IWG-1 Infrastructure Resiliency. – Chair: Marion Scott of Centurytel; Vice-Chair: Steve Dean, Fire Chief, City of Mobile, Alabama.
- IWG-2 Recovery Coordination and Process – Chair: Steve Davis, Clear Channel; Vice-Chair: Joey Booth, Louisiana State Police.
- IWG-3 Emergency Communications – Chair: Steve Delahousey, American Medical Response; Vice-Chair: Jim Jacot, Cingular.

PANEL TIMELINE

Ms. Victory gave the following schedule for the Panel to strive to adhere to:

- Early February – the working groups will begin meeting to identify the facts to be gathered, the issues to be explored, and the experts to consult with respect to working group issue areas.
- Early March – the Panel will have their second meeting to gather information from interested parties and experts through oral testimony.
- Late March and early April – the working groups will continue to meet, probably telephonically, to organize facts regarding what happened during Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, identify areas for recommendations, and begin formulating draft recommendations for the Panel’s consideration.
- Late April – the Panel will have their third meeting, where the working groups will present draft findings, potential areas for recommendations, and any draft recommendations developed for discussion and input by the full Panel.
- Throughout May – the informal working groups will continue to meet to revise and augment findings and to develop draft recommendations.
- Early June – the Panel will have its fourth and hopefully last meeting, where the Panel will consider, discuss, and adopt the draft recommendations. This will allow the Panel to forward their recommendations to the Commission by or before June 15.

STATEMENTS OF PANEL MEMBERS

Carson Agnew

Mr. Agnew is Executive Vice President of Mobile Satellite Ventures, a mobile satellite provider that directly participated in the relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Agnew stated that the biggest issue his company encountered was equipment – moving equipment when the modes of transportation they normally used were unavailable. He further stated Hurricane Katrina was an extraordinary catastrophe and as such, revealed problems that had been masked. He hoped the Panel’s output would help to move forward the public policy debate on how to improve communications in times of national emergencies.

Michael Anderson

Mr. Anderson serves as the Chair of PART-15.org, a vendor and technology neutral wireless Internet service providers’ (WISP) organization. PART-15 began relief efforts after receiving information and distress calls from fellow WISPs in the affected areas. PART-15 was invited to be part of an FCC conference call the day after the hurricane hit, at which time it was agreed that PART-15 would funnel a lot of the industry’s relief efforts to the FCC. Within 48 hours, PART-15 established an ad-hoc emergency

communication system that worked well. Mr. Anderson hoped the Panel would address and focus on non-traditional means of communications.

Robert G. Bailey

Mr. Bailey is the Telecommunications Manager for the Harrison County Emergency Communications Commission. Mr. Bailey expressed thanks for the opportunity to serve on the Panel and to represent the public safety answering points along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. He described the havoc Hurricane Katrina brought on many of the 911, telephone, cellular and public safety radio systems that served the citizens in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties in South Mississippi.

Mr. Bailey suggested the following recommendations or issues for the Panel's consideration: (1) identify all critical communications networks and provide the generator and backup support needed prior to the arrival of a storm; (2) lack of knowledge of membership by many agencies to the Telephone Services Priority, Government Emergency Telecommunications service and Wireless Priority Access programs; (3) establishment of a comprehensive local, state, and federal emergency communications response plan; (4) establishment and equipping by the telecommunications industry, Office of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), of communications response teams composed of public safety, 911, telephone, cellular, and Internet specialists to respond with equipment to disaster sites and assist the affected areas; (5) ability to more easily utilize the communications resources of the military in the civilian environment; and (6) utilize the resources of the National Emergency Numbering Association (NENA), the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO), telephone providers, wireless providers, state emergency management and FEMA to develop a comprehensive communications preparedness package for all local communities.

Kevin Beary

Mr. Beary is the Sheriff of Orange County, Florida and the task force leader for the Florida Sheriffs. Sheriff Beary discussed some of the problems encountered during the recovery operation. In his remarks, he emphasized the need for regional command posts and portable communications systems.

Greg Bicket

Mr. Bicket is responsible for Cox Communications operations in the New Orleans metropolitan area. He stated that Cox: (1) is a facilities-based provider of cable television, high-speed Internet, and both residential and commercial telephone services; (2) provides service to many entities critical to public safety; and (3) also provides carrier services to some inter-exchange and wireless providers in the New Orleans area. In terms of the impact of Hurricane Katrina, Mr. Bicket stated more than 1,000,000 Cox passes were affected in the Katrina and Rita storms, however, Cox has rebuilt much of its network. Mr. Bicket believes what worked is a very careful disaster recovery plan.

Although Cox Communications got a little more practice than hoped, the good news is its plan worked well and stood up in the face of Hurricane Katrina.

Joseph Booth

Lieutenant Colonel Booth is the Deputy Superintendent of the Louisiana State Police. Lieutenant Colonel Booth gave an overview of the kind of communication system that was in use in Louisiana, its status, how it fared during Hurricane Katrina, and the steps they took to restore and augment its capacity with other systems. He closed his remarks with a few comments about possible recommendations and solutions such as full integration of text messaging, creation of bandwidth set-asides, and closer partnerships between the public and private sectors on the use of commercial infrastructure.

Steve Davis

Mr. Davis is Senior Vice President of Engineering for Clear Channel Radio. In that capacity, he directed Clear Channel's preparation for and response to Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Davis stated Hurricane Katrina had an impact on Clear Channel's radio operations in a number of their radio markets besides New Orleans. He told the Panel how Clear Channel took advantage of the lead-time and advance warning that the hurricane, unlike some other disasters, provided to hold conference calls with its radio market in the potential path of the storm and prepare for the storm. He discussed issues that he believed the Panel should focus on, emphasizing the need to grant broadcasters first responder status with respect to restoration of cell phone and other vital services.

Robert G. Dawson

Mr. Dawson is President and Chief Executive Officer of SouthernLINC Wireless, a commercial wireless provider that operates in the states of Alabama, Georgia, the panhandle of Florida, and the southeast 23 counties of Mississippi. Mr. Dawson remarked that because SouthernLINC Wireless survived the storm and came back quickly where they had damage, the company was the primary means for the restoration of electric service along the coast and in Mississippi, as well as in Alabama and the panhandle of Florida, Gulf Power. He stated SouthernLINC's success can be attributed to the original design and construction and the ongoing maintenance of the system and pre-planning for storms.

Stephen A. Dean

Mr. Dean is Fire Chief of the City of Mobile, Alabama. Mr. Dean indicated he felt like the luckiest fire chief in the country over the last two years because Mobile had dodged five major storms and was just brushed by them - Ivan, Arlene, Dennis, Katrina, and Rita. He stated a shift one degree either way could have been devastating. He further stated the south part of the county, where he lives, was not as lucky. The Dolphin Island and Bayou La Batre area of south Mobile County looked like the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Mr. Dean noted various issues he believed should be addressed such as generator power on all

sites, placement of communications systems on the same level of the priority list as medical services, and placement of portable systems in strategic locations.

Steve Delahousey

Mr. Delahousey is the Vice President of Operations of American Medical Response, the largest provider of medical transportation in the nation, serving 39 states. Mr. Delahousey discussed the problems and challenges during and after Hurricane Katrina. He then addressed some of the successes and best practices that he witnessed. He ended his remarks by stating many lessons would be learned from Hurricane Katrina and hopefully the Panel would take the time to study all aspects of disaster-related communications and make decisions that positively impact the operability and survivability of existing and future public safety radio systems.

Dave Flessas

Mr. Flessas is the Vice President of Network Operations at Sprint Network Services. Mr. Flessas stated when Katrina made its first landfall in Ventura, Florida, on August 25, only nine business days had passed since the company closed its merger between Sprint and Nextel. Despite that challenge, Mr. Flessas stated as a result of strong pre-merger planning, their newly formed company of 80,000 employees came together with a unified and large-scale restoration effort. His network team's initial response to Hurricane Katrina and its expected service impacts actually began four days before the storm's Atlantic Coast landfall. Mr. Flessas proceeded to tell the Panel about the company's emergency plan and how it responded to the storm. Lastly, Mr. Flessas identified several industry-wide issues to be addressed including the need to designate telecommunications carriers as emergency responders, clarification of the roles and responsibilities of the various government agencies, and enhanced coordination between telecommunications carriers, power companies and responding government agencies at all levels.

Martin D. Hadfield

Mr. Hadfield is the Vice President of Engineering at Entercom. Mr. Hadfield told the Panel what had transpired during the first days following Hurricane Katrina. He indicated nearly 100 radio stations and almost 20 television stations were knocked off the air in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. He noted that while radio is a source of information for people every day, following a disaster it is more than just a casual source of what's happening. He further stated radio is a fundamental support for survival and recovery, and nowhere was that more important than in New Orleans, the home of Entercom's flagship station, WWL. Mr. Hadfield thanked the FCC for its instant reaction by granting waivers to several broadcast rules, thus allowing an ad hoc emergency network to spring to life.

Jim O. Jacot

Mr. Jacot is the Vice President of Cingular Network Group at Cingular. Mr. Jacot told the Panel about Cingular's experiences during Hurricane Katrina, which had a greater impact than the company's past experiences with hurricanes. Mr. Jacot indicated what worked well and what did not work well. Specifically, he noted that Cingular did not run out of materials such as generators, fuel, equipment and technicians. He noted that coordination and cooperation among emergency response organizations and other telecommunications companies was very good. He also noted the expeditious granting of temporary operating authority for microwave licenses by the FCC.

Problem areas included damage to the commercial power grid and landline telecommunications in the core areas of New Orleans. This resulted in a need for a massive and long-term effort to deploy generators and re-supply fuel. Other problem areas included lack of access to impacted areas and lack of communications services.

Tony Kent

Mr. Kent is Vice President of Engineering and Network Operations for Cellular South, a regional wireless provider based in Jackson, Mississippi. The areas that Cellular South covers that were most impacted by Katrina were coastal and south Mississippi, coastal Alabama, and to a lesser degree, central and north Mississippi. Mr. Kent made a few points about the good and bad aspects of the infrastructure. In his remarks, he noted the need to address: (1) the need for fuel for generators and obtaining access in those areas to fuel the generators and (2) the need to meet with public safety officials to make sure there is a good plan for getting access to sites.

Kelly Kirwan

Mr. Kirwan is Vice President of Motorola's State and Local Government and Commercial Markets Division. Mr. Kirwan led Motorola's emergency response team in the wake of Hurricane Katrina's devastation to the Gulf Coast. He addressed the public safety side of Motorola's business. Mr. Kirwan expressed Motorola's views on the communications issues that affected first responders' and federal officials' ability to communicate during Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Kirwan presented a wide range of recommended solutions available to better prepare our public safety communications systems and first responders for such disasters in the future. Examples include: (1) the need for communications systems to be designed and constructed for worst-case scenarios; (2) operability must be augmented by the larger need of true interoperability; (3) provide resources to assure mission-critical public safety communications can be restored on an emergency basis in any area of the country within 12 hours; (4) give priority to alternative sources of energy such as portable fuel cell cartridges to power handheld public safety radio; (5) augment primary networks with alternative technologies that can provide situational communications such as mesh networking and satellite; and (6) make the national mission critical response effort fully interoperable with state and local systems.

Jonathan D. Linkous

Mr. Linkous is Executive Director of American Telemedicine Association. American Telemedicine Association represents medical service providers around the country who use telecommunications to provide clinical services over distances. Mr. Linkous gave some background information regarding telemedicine networks, trauma centers, and the effect of the hurricane on the medical centers in the affected area. Mr. Linkous called for support for interconnection of medical systems across state boundaries between telemedicine sites.

Adora Obi Nweze

Ms. Nweze is the President of the Florida State Conference of the NAACP. She is also a member of the National Board of Directors of the NAACP and was the director of their hurricane relief efforts as well. Ms. Nweze expressed concern that the “English-only policy in this country” has not allowed information to get out to people who speak other languages. She also expressed the need to develop an infrastructure that would allow information to reach people with disabilities, the elderly and the poor.

Eduardo Pena

Mr. Pena is a Board member of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and a former national president of LULAC. LULAC is the largest Hispanic organization in the country. Mr. Pena stated his concerns regarding the Hispanic community in the area affected by Hurricane Katrina and emphasized the need to reach everyone, including those who do not speak English.

Billy Pitts

Mr. Pitts is the President of Government Affairs for Notification Technologies, Inc. (NTI). NTI specializes in providing a technological service that enables community leaders to reach large numbers of people within a narrow time frame with messages that arm them with critical information before, during, and after unplanned incidences. Mr. Pitts discussed this new time-sensitive information, or TSN, technology. He then discussed what transpired before and after Hurricane Katrina with respect to school systems in the area affected by the storm. Mr. Pitts ended his remarks with a discussion of the results and the lessons that were learned.

Michael Sauter

Major Sauter is the Commander of the New Orleans Police Department’s Office of Technology and Communications. Mr. Sauter had firsthand knowledge of the effects of communications failure related to Hurricane Katrina – he lost his house during the storm. Mr. Sauter discussed a pre-Katrina project undertaken by the City of New Orleans and the parishes of Jefferson, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines, which was 18 months from completion when Hurricane Katrina struck. The project supported by a COPS grant was

to establish communications interoperability within the region. Mr. Sauter ended his remarks with a discussion regarding post-Katrina today.

Marion Scott

Ms. Scott is Vice President of Operations at CenturyTel, a full-service communications company, and the eighth largest local exchange carrier in the U.S., based on access lines served. Ms. Scott discussed CenturyTel's restoration efforts. She also made recommendations for consideration with respect to: (1) recovery effort assistance; (2) shelter and food; (3) security; (4) infrastructure; and (5) tax incentives.

Kay Sears

Ms. Sears is Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing for G2 Satellite Solutions. Ms. Sears stated satellite communications played a critical role during Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. She also discussed the satellite industry and the satellite network infrastructure. Ms. Sears ended her remarks with a discussion of solutions and steps that the Panel could take to ensure that satellite systems are completely integrated into emergency planning and preparation. These included: (1) making satellite services an essential component of future critical communications networks; (2) pre-positioning and pre-purchasing satellite capacity and equipment; (3) credentialing satellite operators and personnel as first responders; and (4) preserving and protecting satellite spectrum from interference.

Edmund M. Sexton, Sr.

Sheriff Sexton is President of the National Sheriff's Association. Mr. Sexton made a few remarks about other Panel members' comments – what was done and how they did it. He spoke regarding his memory while in the New Orleans area during Hurricane Katrina. His hopes are for the Panel to review some of the existing standards and see if they meet the country's needs so that we can operate during future emergencies and catastrophic situations.

Edwin D. Smith

Chief Smith is the Chief of the Baton Rouge Fire Department. Chief Smith's comments focused on the local communication issues, during the initial days of the storm. He stated that Baton Rouge communications though taxed, were not overloaded. Additionally, Chief Smith stated that the Governor, through the State Police had a working committee on communications prior to the storm. One of their tasks was to look into creating a state-wide communications backbone, to allow various agencies to use their equipment during emergencies. Chief Smith believes this system would greatly enhance the country's interoperability, as long as there was also a way to temporarily establish towers in the areas where they had been destroyed.

William L. Smith

Mr. Smith is the Chief Technology Officer of BellSouth Corporation. He stated although he and other Panel members have had their fair share of experience with hurricanes, Hurricane Katrina was unlike any hurricane that they had seen. He spoke of how frustrating it was to sit and watch a generator that may have 4,000 or 5,000 gallons of fuel run out of fuel and not be able to get access to it because there was six or eight feet of water all around. He also spoke about additional experiences during Katrina. He then focused on some lessons learned to move forward.

Patrick Yoes

Captain Yoes is the Special Services Division Commander and Public Information Officer of the St. Charles Sheriff's Office. He is also President of the Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police and National Secretary of the Fraternal Order of Police. Captain Yoes offered his comments as an explanation of varied challenges that should be addressed before the country's response system is tested again. He subsequently offered a couple of suggestions to improve our nation's response to major incidents. He stated in a post-Katrina world, planning, preparation and response, as it relates to significant events and disasters, must include a local law enforcement perspective and local law enforcement must play a significant role in driving that initiative.

Wrap-Up Remarks – Nancy Victory

Ms. Victory thanked the Panel members for their statements. She also let them know that the Panel had started to receive some written submissions from interested members of the public. Ms. Victory stated that she and Lisa Fowlkes would begin to circulate the submissions to all of the Panel members that week and that the submissions would also be available on the Panel's website.

NEXT MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT PANEL

Ms. Victory stated that the Panel's next meeting would likely be scheduled in early March and that we were working to select the dates and venue for the meeting. She noted that the meeting would likely be a two-day meeting where the Panel would receive oral testimony from interested parties.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Victory urged the Panel members to take a look at the description of the working groups and let her know whether there is a second group they might want to participate in. She discouraged the chairs and the vice-chairs from joining a second informal working group, noting that they will have a lot of work managing their groups. Ms. Victory indicated that, during the month of February, the working groups should: (1) look at the more extensive written submissions from the Panel members; (2) review the other written submissions they had received; and (3) think about what issues require more

information, particularly any areas not represented on the Panel that they would like to hear oral testimony about at their next meeting.

Ms. Victory thanked the Panel and said she looked forward to working with all of the Panel members as they proceed full speed ahead.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Victory adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify to the accuracy of these minutes of the January 30, 2006 Meeting of the FCC's Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks ("Hurricane Katrina Panel").



Nancy J. Victory
Chair

Independent Panel Reviewing the
Impact of Hurricane Katrina on
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