



Background Briefing Memo NOI on Promoting the Availability of Diverse and Independent Sources of Video (FCC 16-41) March 2016

In February 2016, the FCC released a Notice of Inquiry (FCC 16-41) on barriers to independent and diverse programming on Multichannel Video Program Distribution systems, including barriers to PEG channels reaching viewers. The inquiry was prompted by Commissioner Mignon Clyburn following complaints by many entities about ways cable and satellite distributors hinder diverse programming.

The NOI specifically asks if the cable industry has been preventing PEG channels from providing program listings to viewers, what the factors are that have led to such actions, and whether the Commission has authority to act in the matter.

Additionally, it asks questions about whether program channels have the ability to gain access to viewers, or are prevented from doing so by the industry practice. These questions relate directly to a PEG channel's ability to get HD distribution.

The Alliance for Community Media believes it's important for PEG channels and local governments to state their concerns in the proceedings and we will be collecting statements from operations across the U.S. to include in our filings.

Access to program guides and HD channel distribution are two of the greatest concerns in our industry, and channels and local governments need to document the record to enable the FCC to act in our behalf.

The deadline for initial comments is March 30, 2016 with reply comments due on April 19, 2016.

ACM will provide assistance so local organizations can support our comments or file their own comments with the FCC. Please contact Mike Wassenaar directly by March 30 to do so.

The Alliance for Community Media wants to keep you and others in your organization updated on significant issues affecting PEG. For further information, please contact Mike Wassenaar, President & CEO at mwassenaar@allcommunitymedia.org.