



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

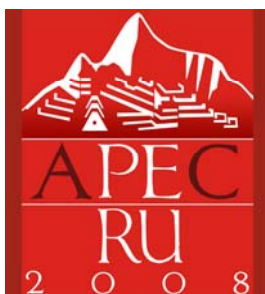
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**2008/TEL38/PLEN/018**

Agenda Item: 7

## **U.S. Regulatory and Policy Update**

Purpose: Information  
Submitted by: United States



**38<sup>th</sup> APEC Telecommunications and Working  
Group Meeting – Plenary Session  
Lima, Peru  
15-17 October 2008**

**THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING  
APEC TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION WORKING GROUP  
OCTOBER 2008  
REGULATORY AND POLICY UPDATE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

*To Cover Activities from February 2008 through October 2008*

**THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

**NTIA DTV Converter Box Coupon Program Update**

The Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) began mailing \$40 coupons to U.S. consumers on February 18, 2008, to be used in purchasing eligible digital television (DTV) converter boxes. NTIA is administering the DTV Converter Box Coupon Program, which permits U.S. households to request up to two \$40 coupons to purchase eligible DTV converter boxes for analog televisions, which rely on over-the-air broadcasts. Converter boxes will keep analog televisions working after February 17, 2009, when full-power television stations convert to all-digital signals. As of September 30, 2008, over twenty-nine million requests have been processed totaling over eleven million coupons redeemed to date. More than 2,395 retailers are participating in the program, at a total of over 29,000 locations in the United States. In addition to this, there are 12 over-the-phone retailers and 35 online retailers participating. Participating stores have completed certification in the Coupon Program, have converter boxes for sale, have employees trained, and prepared to redeem coupons. On September 8, 2008, Wilmington, North Carolina became the first market in the U.S. to transition to digital television, as a Federal Communication Commission test. The Wilmington test pilot was an important opportunity for NTIA to gauge consumer awareness and participation in the Coupon Program. The primary lesson NTIA gained from Wilmington was the need to emphasize to an even greater extent the need for consumers that rely on over the air broadcasts for viewing on analog TV sets to apply for a coupon and purchase a converter box well in advance of the transition date. It is essential that consumers are aware that it will take several weeks to make adequate preparations – to apply for and receive a coupon, and to purchase and install a converter box – to ensure that all of the analog TVs in their household are prepared when the transition occurs. This information and updates are available at [www.DTV2009.gov](http://www.DTV2009.gov).

**NTIA Seeks Public Comments for the Deployment of Security Technology Within the Internet Domain Name System**

On October 9, 2008, NTIA issued a Notice of Inquiry seeking public comments regarding the deployment of Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) into the Internet's DNS infrastructure, including the authoritative root zone. Comments are due on November 24, 2008. The domain name system (DNS) is a critical component of the Internet infrastructure, which is used by almost every application to associate domain names with the Web addresses required to deliver information on the Internet. The accuracy, integrity, and availability of the information supplied by the DNS are essential to the operation of any system or service that uses the Internet. Over the years, a number of vulnerabilities have been identified in the DNS protocol that threaten the accuracy and integrity of the DNS data and undermine the trustworthiness of the system. In particular, due to technological advances, vulnerabilities in the existing DNS have recently become easier to exploit. Malicious parties may use these vulnerabilities to distribute false DNS information, and to improperly re-direct Internet users. DNSSEC was developed to mitigate these vulnerabilities. Accordingly, the Department is exploring the deployment of DNSSEC at the top level of the DNS hierarchy, known as the root zone. *DNSSEC Notice of Inquiry:* <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/DNS/dnssec.html>

### **NTIA Releases First Annual Progress Report on the Relocation of Federal Users from the 1710-1755 MHz Spectrum Band**

NTIA submitted its 1710-1755 MHz Spectrum Band Relocation Annual Report pursuant to Section 207 of the Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act (CSEA, Title II of P.L. 108-494), which requires annual reporting on Federal agencies' progress in vacating their affected wireless communications systems, which are being relocated from certain radio spectrum that has been reallocated to commercial use. This is the first such annual report, and it details progress from the commencement of relocation activity in March 2007 through December 2007. In addition to describing progress the Federal agencies have made in adhering to relocation timelines, the report also details – on a system-by-system basis – the costs estimated, costs incurred, and costs paid from the Spectrum Relocation Fund (SRF). The SRF was created by law in December 2004 to provide a centralized and streamlined funding mechanism through which Federal agencies can recover the costs associated with relocating their radio communications systems from certain spectrum bands, which were authorized to be auctioned for commercial purposes. Such sums were appropriated as required for relocation costs, which are financed by auction proceeds.

*1710-1755 MHz Spectrum Band Relocation Report:*

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/reports/2008/SpectrumRelocation2008.pdf>

### **NTIA Releases Federal Strategic Spectrum Plan as Part of the President's Initiative on Spectrum Management Reform**

On March 20, 2008, NTIA released a comprehensive report on the use of the nation's airwaves used by the U.S. federal government, based on submissions of spectrum plans from 15 Federal agencies. The report provides extensive data on federal spectrum use and plans, including frequency bands, radiocommunication services, and spectrum-dependent systems. Among several recommendations provided in the report, federal agencies over the next five years should: use commercial services where feasible; work with NTIA on identify economic and other incentives to promote more efficient use of spectrum; facilitate sharing among federal users and between federal and non-federal users; improve interoperability among public safety agencies; and ensure spectrum support for continuity of government operations. Within the five-year time frame, NTIA will upgrade the federal spectrum management system; consider possible user fees for federal use of spectrum; develop improved interference models for optimizing spectrum use; implement methods to better forecast future requirements; and continue to promote interagency and federal/private sector coordination.

*Press Release:* [http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/press/2008/SpectrumPlan\\_080320.html](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/press/2008/SpectrumPlan_080320.html)

*The Federal Strategic Spectrum Plan:*

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/reports/2008/FederalStrategicSpectrumPlan2008.pdf>

### **DHS Announces National Cyber Security Awareness Month**

This October marks the fifth annual National Cyber Security Awareness Month. The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) National Cyber Security Division (NCSA) is actively engaging public and private sector partners through events and initiatives to increase overall awareness and minimize vulnerabilities. The more the public understands the nature of cyber threats, the more empowered they are to act. National Cyber Security Awareness Month is a campaign designed to educate all citizens and key public and private sector partners on cyber threats and how to safeguard themselves at home, work and school. NCSA leads the campaign in partnership with the National Cyber Security Alliance and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center. DHS is responsible for safeguarding our country's critical infrastructure from physical and cyber threats that can jeopardize our national security and economic prosperity. Our critical infrastructure depends on information technology systems and computer networks for essential operations. Additional information is available:

[http://www.dhs.gov/xprevprot/programs/gc\\_1158611596104.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xprevprot/programs/gc_1158611596104.shtm), the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team's (US-CERT) website <http://www.us-cert.gov>; and, the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) website <http://www.staysafeonline.org>

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
**Web site: <http://www.fcc.gov/headlines.html>**