

**Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of )  
 )  
Accessible Emergency Information, and Apparatus )  
Requirements for Emergency Information )  
And Video Description: Implementation of the ) MB Docket No. 12-107  
Twenty-First Century Communications and )  
Video Accessibility Act of 2010 )

**REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED RETROACTIVE EXTENSION OF WAIVER OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS**

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.3 and 14.5, the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB)<sup>1</sup> seeks an expedited retroactive extension of the previously granted waiver of 47 C.F.R. §79.2(b)(2)(ii), which requires broadcasters to provide an aural description of visual, non-textual emergency information,<sup>2</sup> such as moving radar maps (the “audible crawl rule”). The previous waiver of the audible crawl rule expired on November 26, 2024.<sup>2</sup> The American Council of the Blind (ACB) has informed NAB that it supports our request for a brief retroactive extension of the waiver.

On November 15, 2024, NAB filed a Petition asking the Commission to modify the audible crawl rule to provide that the requirement is met if a station provides textual crawls that convey emergency information duplicative of or equivalent to the emergency

---

<sup>1</sup> NAB is a nonprofit trade association that advocates on behalf of local radio and television stations and broadcast networks before Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and other federal agencies, and the courts.

<sup>2</sup> *Accessible Emergency Information, and Apparatus Requirements for Emergency Information and Video Description: Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010; Video Description: Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010*, MB Docket Nos. 12-107 and 11-43, 38 FCC Rcd 4982 (2023).

information conveyed by a visual, non-textual image.<sup>3</sup> In the Petition, we also requested an 18-month extension of the existing waiver while the Commission considers our request to clarify the rule. We explained that, because compliance with the existing rule remains impossible, absent a waiver, many broadcasters will stop providing radar maps and other visual, non-textual emergency information, due to concerns about potential Commission enforcement.<sup>4</sup>

On November 25, 2024, the FCC issued a Public Notice seeking comment on our requested rule clarification, but did not extend the existing waiver of the rule.<sup>5</sup> As a result, the audible crawl rule became effective on November 27, 2024, and as expected, numerous large television station groups have ceased the display of such weather radar maps and similar visual images. There is no doubt that the Commission's inaction regarding a waiver extension will harm the public. It will lead to diminished useful information about emergencies for all Americans, including deaf and hard of hearing individuals who may rely on the visual emergency information conveyed by radar maps and similar images.

Accordingly, NAB respectfully requests, with ACB's support, a brief but expedited retroactive extension of the previously granted waiver of the audible crawl rule to enable television stations to continue providing radar maps and other visual, non-textual images that inform viewers about emergencies during non-newcast programming.<sup>6</sup> This temporary

---

<sup>3</sup> Petition for Rulemaking and Extension of Waiver of the National Association of Broadcasters, MB Docket No. 12-107 (filed Nov. 15, 2024) (Petition).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 3.

<sup>5</sup> Public Notice, *Media Bureau Seeks Comment on National Association of Broadcasters Petition for Rulemaking and Extension of Waiver of Accessible Emergency Information Requirements*, DA 24-1184, MB Docket No. 12-107 (rel. Nov. 25, 2024).

<sup>6</sup> The Commission has granted retroactive extensions of previously granted waivers in other contexts. See, e.g., Order, *Matter of Transition from TTY to Real-Time Text Technology*;

extension of the waiver, while the Commission considers NAB's request for clarification of the audible crawl rule, will benefit all viewers by allowing broadcasters to maximize their news reporting capabilities during severe weather and other emergencies.

Respectfully submitted,



Rick Kaplan  
Larry Walke  
National Association of Broadcasters  
1 M Street S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20003  
Phone: (202) 429-5430

November 27, 2024

---

*Petition for Rulemaking to Update the Commission's Rules for Access to Support the Transition from TTY to Real-Time Text Technology, and Petition for Waiver of the Rules Requiring the Support of TTY Technology; Petition for Waiver of Rules Requiring Support of TTY Technology; United States Cellular Corporation, 35 FCC Rcd 14689 (2020).*