

**THE FCC INDEPENDENT PANEL
REVIEWING THE IMPACT OF HURRICANE KATRINA
ON COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS**

CHARTER

A. The Independent Panel's Official Designation

The official designation of the advisory committee will be the "FCC's Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks" (hereinafter, the "Independent Panel").

B. The Independent Panel's Objectives and Scope of Its Activity

The purpose of the Independent Panel is to review the impact of Hurricane Katrina on the telecommunications and media infrastructure in the areas affected by the hurricane. Specifically, the Independent Panel will study the impact of Hurricane Katrina on all sectors of the telecommunications and media industries, including public safety communications. The Independent Panel will also review the sufficiency and effectiveness of the recovery effort with respect to this infrastructure. The Independent Panel will then make recommendations to the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission" or "FCC") by June 15, 2006 regarding ways to improve disaster preparedness, network reliability, and communication among first responders such as police, fire fighters, and emergency medical personnel.

C. Period of Time Necessary for the Independent Panel to Carry Out Its Purpose

The Independent Panel will have until June 15, 2006 to carry out the purposes for which it was created.

D. Official to Whom the Independent Panel Reports

The Independent Panel shall report to the Chairman of the FCC. The Chairman of the FCC shall appoint the Chair of the Independent Panel.

E. Agency Responsible for Providing Necessary Support

The FCC will provide the necessary support for the Independent Panel, including the meeting facilities for the Panel. All members of the Independent Panel may be entitled to travel expenses or per diem or subsistence allowances.

F. Description of Duties for Which the Independent Panel is Responsible

The duties of the Independent Panel will be to gather the data and information necessary to formulate recommendations for assuring optimal communications services within the parameters set forth in Section B above, develop those recommendations, and submit them to the Commission.

G. Estimated Total Operating Costs in Dollars and Staff Years

An estimated two FCC staff years will be expended in support of the Independent Panel. The Independent Panel's estimated total operating cost to the FCC is approximately \$150,000.

H. Membership

Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Commission. Members will be selected from public safety organizations, the public sector and the private sector to balance the expertise and viewpoints that are necessary to address effectively the issues considered.

I. Estimated Number and Frequency of Panel Meetings

The Independent Panel will meet at least three times. Informal subcommittees may meet more frequently to facilitate the work of the Independent Panel.

J. Independent Panel's Termination Date

The Independent Panel will terminate on June 15, 2006, unless renewed before that date for an additional term.

K. Date Original Charter Filed

January 9, 2006