

**Remarks by Commissioner James H. Quello**  
**Before the**  
**Association of Federal Communications Consulting Engineers**  
**Washington, DC - March 21, 1996**

**What is the timetable for Advanced Television rulemakings?**

**The Commission plans to release two more notices dealing with advanced television this year. One notice will address the standard for digital t.v.; the other will address how licenses and service areas will be defined.**

**How does LPTV fit into ATV plans?**

**Although LPTV stations have made valuable contributions to broadcasting in the past, it will be difficult to support both LPTV and advanced television in the limited spectrum available. Insofar as there is a conflict, LPTV licenses may be allocated after full-power licenses, but this matter clearly has not been resolved yet.**

**What is being done to speed up pending rulemakings?**

**The Commission has issued a formal inquiry into streamlining its procedures, including rulemakings. We have received and are considering several valuable suggestions from the public. In addition, we have taken other steps to streamline our procedures, such as issuing more efficient forms, allowing electronic filings, and, as always, reviewing our regulations to eliminate those that are unnecessary and burdensome.**

**Is consideration being given to private industry assistance?**

**As the Commission downsizes, we will certainly consider outsourcing certain tasks, such as application data entry and activities for routine, uncontested applications. The key is to balance downsizing and outsourcing with preserving the integrity of broadcast services.**

**How is the Commission going to proceed on technical matters?**

**As always, the Commission seeks to authorize services as quickly as possible while maintaining the technical integrity of those services to prevent interference.**

**Has the FCC gone too far in relaxing technical requirements?**

**The Commission is eager to take advantage of technological advances that can help us further the public interest. We have done so in several instances, such as automating the Emergency Broadcast System and deregulating station operator requirements. We must, however, continue to proceed cautiously in this area, and we look to the Consulting Engineers to give us guidance.**

**What is the effect of downsizing field offices?**

**When all the dust settles, I believe that the Commission has two key purposes. The first is allocating spectrum, and the second is ensuring that the users of that spectrum don't interfere with one another. To the extent that closing field offices takes the Commission out of the job of preventing spectrum interference, I believe it is at odds with one of our essential purposes, and I oppose it.**