



57 EVERETT STREET  
WARREN, RHODE ISLAND 02885  
PHONE. 401.247.2250

LINDA JANE MAAIA  
PRESIDENT / CEO

November 14, 2014

Thomas Kogut  
Associate Administrator  
R.I. Division of Public Utilities & Carriers  
89 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, RI 02888

Dear Mr. Kogut:

Below please find Full Channel's responses to your data requests dated November 6, 2014 regarding the Company's proposed I-Net transition from analog to IPTV.

- I. Identify the current institutional users of the existing I-Net infrastructure in Area 5 and please describe, in detail, how the current I-Net infrastructure is being used.**

Bristol Town Hall has routinely utilized Full Channel's analog I-Net capabilities for video backhaul of live video from Town Hall of monthly Town Council meetings for telecast on Full Channel Government Access TV channel 16. There are presently no other routine users of Full Channel's analog I-Net infrastructure.

- II. Please provide a detailed description of the proposed Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) substitute. What is this IPTV? How does it work? How is it different from digital cable? How is it sent upstream? How is it viewed downstream?**

IPTV is a form of digital cable television transmission that refers to any method of packetizing digital audio and video streams and transporting these streams using Internet Protocol (IP) rather than analog video carrier. Analog or digital audio and video can be inserted into an IP video encoder at the remote location. An encoder converts the signal to a format suitable for transmission to a video hub over Full Channel's data network. At the hub, video may either be routed for closed-circuit or viewing by the user or for retransmission on PEG Access TV channels. The IPTV solution is simply the method of backhaul to Full Channel's

video hub facilities and has virtually no impact on downstream viewers or available methods of viewing the content (e.g. live meetings can still be made available to all PEG Access TV viewers or delivered point-to-point).

**III. Describe the technical requirements and /or training needed for institutional users to transition to Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) and what cost, if any, would be incurred by institutions to obtain IPTV service?**

Full Channel's IPTV I-Net solution is currently operational as a beta test at Bristol Town Hall. Testing over the past several months with this user has been very successful and has proved that the IPTV system provides improved video and audio quality over the legacy analog I-Net. In place of an analog CATV modulator, a suitable IPTV MPEG encoder and a Full Channel High-Speed Internet connection are connected to the users' existing audio and video equipment for access to the IPTV I-Net system. The exact equipment required for any given user will vary depending on the particular requirements of the site and the intended use of the video (e.g. HD or SD, broadcast or closed-circuit, high-motion or still frames). Full Channel will assist the remote site with the selection and configuration of the MPEG encoder and will provide training to users on how to properly connect their particular video and audio equipment to Full Channel's new IPTV I-Net system.

**IV. Identify potential losses or additions of live institutional programming resulting from a transition from the existing I-Net infrastructure.**

There are not expected to be any losses of current I-Net users as a result of the transition to IPTV technology. IPTV technology will allow Full Channel to serve a larger number of possible Institutional and PEG Access users as the IPTV system, unlike the analog I-Net, is not limited to prebuilt fixed connection sites. Institutional users from virtually any site in Full Channel's wired service area may now request access to the IPTV backhaul system for live telecasts on PEG Access TV or closed-circuit, point-to-point TV viewing.

**V. Identify potential losses or additions of public access programming resulting from a transition from the existing I-Net infrastructure.**

The Town of Bristol is presently the only routine user of Full Channel's existing analog I-Net infrastructure. The Bristol Town Council uses the system for video backhaul of monthly meetings for live telecast on PEG Access TV. Should other Institutional users request access to the IPTV I-Net system for live backhaul of PEG Access TV programming from remote locations, Full Channel will accommodate such users as it would any petition for I-Net Access and PEG Access per the Division's CATV rules.

**VI. Please provide specific examples of how current users (like town councils, public access studio users, and other institutional entities) will use the proposed substitute.**

The IPTV system, unlike the legacy analog I-Net, is not limited to prebuilt fixed connection sites. A remote transmission requires only a Full Channel High-Speed Internet connection for IP transport and a digital video encoder. Depending on the specific application, an Institutional user will be able to provide composite, S-video, or SD/HD-SDI audio and video to the input of a connected encoder for backhaul on the IPTV I-Net system for backhaul of live PEG access TV programming or closed-circuit viewing at another site.

**VII. When does Full Channel plan to implement the transition?**

With the Division's approval, Full Channel is ready and able to decommission the analog I-Net infrastructure and make the new IPTV system the I-Net's primary television backhaul method.

**VIII. How will implementation occur?**

With the Division's approval, Full Channel will inform current I-Net users of the formal IPTV transition and officially commission the IPTV system.

**IX. Should Full Channel be authorized to abandon the current "B-Cable" (I-Net), does Full Channel plan to remove the actual physical infrastructure? Would Full Channel be willing to commit to its removal, and if so, what potential timetable would apply to that process?**

The first step to decommission the analog I-Net infrastructure is to terminate electric utility service to the active components. Full Channel expects to complete the removal of the analog I-Net active plant equipment (i.e. power supplies and amplifiers) within eight (8) months of electric utility termination by National Grid. The I-Net plant cable is overlashed with Full Channel's active HFC system cable and is not planned for removal.

Please contact Levi C. Maaia with any questions. He may be reached at 401-310-0105 or by email at [levi@fullchannel.com](mailto:levi@fullchannel.com).

Very truly yours,

  
Linda Jane Maaia  
President/CEO

cc: Levi C. Maaia  
William C. Maaia, Esq.