

service and not limit it to the use of a single technical system, the technical and other matters can be considered concurrently and the new service could get under way with a minimum of delay.

5. It is emphasized that the decision to issue the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making at this time is not to be construed as a prejudgment of the basic issue of whether a nation-wide STV service should be established, or if the issue of whether, if authorized, STV should be restricted to the use of a single technical system or permitted on any system which meets general system performance capability standards established by the Commission. The decision, it is repeated, is solely for the purpose of expediting an earlier commencement of the service should it be decided that such a service is in the public interest and that use of multiple systems should be permitted.

6. The Commission has studied detailed specifications of present or proposed STV systems submitted by parties to this proceeding. This has helped in the formulation of the proposed rules contained in the Appendix attached hereto which would permit the use of any STV technical system which meets the standards set therein. These rules would require adequate performance of STV systems in serving subscribers and in avoiding any increase of interference to conventional TV services.

7. The Commission does not presently foresee the need for special technical operating requirements for STV, and in the absence of such requirements the operating requirements for conventional television station operation will apply. Should any parties believe that special rules on the subject are necessary for STV, their suggestions and comments would be welcome.

8. Authority for the rule amendments proposed herein is contained in Sections 4(i), 301 and 303(e), (f), and (r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

9. Accordingly, it is ordered, That pursuant to the procedures set forth in Section 1.415 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, interested parties may, in response to the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making, file comments on or before September 29, 1967, and reply comments on or before October 20, 1967. All relevant and timely comments and reply comments will be considered by the Commission before final action is taken in this proceeding. In reaching its decision in this proceeding, the Commission may also take into account other relevant information before it in addition to the specific comments invited by this Notice.

10. It is further ordered, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 1.419 of the Rules and Regulations of the Commission, an original and 14 copies of all comments, replies, pleadings, briefs, and other documents filed in the proceeding shall be furnished the Commission.

11. It is further ordered, That oral argument will be held in this proceeding at the Commission's offices in Washington, D.C., on October 2, 1967.

12. It is further ordered, That parties interested in participating in said oral argument shall notify the Secretary of the Commission in writing on or before September 15, 1967, briefly setting forth their intention to appear at the argument, their position in this matter, and the approximate amount of time they wish to use in argument: *Provided*, That interested parties may, in addition to the aforementioned brief submission, submit (in a separate filing) written comments or outlines of their arguments, not to exceed 50 pages, on or before September 15, 1967, pursuant to our Order released on July 14, 1967, in this docket: *And provided further*, That the aforementioned brief submissions, comments, and outlines of arguments shall not be addressed to that portion of the report of the Subscription Television Committee dated July 3, 1967, which consisted of the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making pertaining to system performance capability standards.

13. It is further ordered, That after the various requests filed pursuant hereto are received, the amount of time allowed to various parties will be specified by further Order, which will also set forth the order of presentation.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION,
BEN F. WAPLE, *Secretary*.

APPENDIX

1. It is proposed that Section 73.644 of the Commissions Rules and Regulations be amended by the addition thereto of a new paragraph (b) as follows:

§ 73.644 Equipment and system performance requirements.

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