

The CATV Task Force was created in September 1966 for the specific purposes of administering the Commission's CATV regulatory program. Although the office, the regulatory program, and the industry itself, are in the early stages of the evolution of a substantial new force in communications it is believed that the CATV Task Force for this initial phase has proved out its effectiveness.

15. Are there any outstanding GAO reports on this program? If so, what is the status of the GAO recommendations the report contains?

There are no existing GAO reports on this specific program.

16. What significant problems, if any, are you facing in accomplishing the program objectives?

Official information on the dimensions and composition of the industry is skimpy. It is believed that it will be necessary to initiate a permanent program of industry reporting and information gathering. Additionally, the backlogs in unresolved conflicts between CATV systems and broadcasters remain uncomfortably large. Increasing effort must be devoted to reducing these inventories to manageable levels. Also, current regulations are an interim measure designed to maintain a reasonable status quo until reliable information is developed on the interaction between CATV and broadcast TV. The Commission must begin now to plan for the next phase.

17. Do you administer any grant, loans, or other disbursed funds related to this program? If so, is the size of your administrative staff commensurate with the magnitude of the outlays?

The CATV Task Force does not disburse funds and the size of the administrative staff is not related to this circumstance.

18. If your appropriations were reduced, how would you absorb the cut—by an overall reduction, or by cutting or curtailing certain activities?

The CATV Task Force has been functioning with a skeleton staff. Most aspects of the program are being operated at the bare minimum level of activity. A cut in funds, as a result, would have to be compensated for not by an across-the-board equivalent reduction in pace but by the elimination of entire phases. It would be expected, for example, that rulemaking and enforcement activities would have to be dispensed with completely.

19. If additional funds were available, what would you do with the new money?

New funds would be put to work in the development of a long-range program and, for the near term, in the elimination of processing backlogs.

PROGRAM VII. FIELD ENGINEERING AND ENFORCEMENT

1. What is the nature of and authority for this program?

Authority for the program is contained in the Communications Act of 1934, as amended; Communications Satellite Act of 1962; treaties and Executive agreements to which the United States is a party. The nature of the program administered by the Field Engineering Bureau concerns the enforcement of telecommunications laws and regulations, including inspections; investigations; monitoring and direction finding; engineering; commercial radio operator examination, licensing and sanctions; processing of applications pertaining to painting, marking, and placement of antenna towers; and furnishing direction finding aid to aircraft and ships in distress.

2. Who is the person primarily in charge of this program at the operative level (name and title)?

Mr. Curtis B. Plummer, Chief, Field Engineering Bureau.

3. How much money and capital equipment is available under this program for fiscal year 1968?

Expressed in dollars the total is \$5,116,076, with \$218,000 allocated for capital equipment.

4. Would you describe the output generated by this program?

The output of the program may be generally described as follows:

(a) The enforcement of treaties, laws, and regulations pertaining to telecommunications through inspections, investigation, and monitoring.

(b) Rulemaking proceedings and administration pertaining to the marking, lighting, and placement of antenna structures.

(c) Rulemaking and administration pertaining to commercial radio operator-matters including examination and licensing.