

November 28, 2017

Chris Seidl
Secretary General
Canadian Radio-television and
Telecommunications Commission
Ottawa Ontario K1A 0N2

Re: Notice of Consultation CRTC 2017-365 – The Weather Network licence renewal application #2017-0586-5

Part of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services (AFFES) program manages forest fire monitoring, detection, and suppression, and coordinates public information and educational services for the Province of Ontario. It also provides aviation services and leads emergency management planning and response for natural hazards such as floods, dam failures, oil and gas emergencies and forest fires.

AFFES is intervening in this proceeding to support Pelmorex's application to renew the broadcasting licence for The Weather Network as part of the basic cable and satellite service. The forecasts, news, information and alerting services provided by the Weather Network make a significant contribution to public safety in Ontario.

As AFFES Weather Systems Coordinator, I can attest to the significant value provided by The Weather Network's weather services, both for our operations and for viewers across the province. The Weather Network's engagement with the public over a variety of media platforms allows for the efficient exchange of real-time weather conditions across Canada. This can be extremely important to myself for situational awareness of high impact weather that could trigger a response from our organization. Most of our emergency operations centre have a monitor dedicated to showing The Weather Network to stay abreast of current weather information.

Pelmorex also makes an invaluable contribution to public safety by distributing weather warnings on TV as well as by operating and funding the national public alerting system. The ability to distribute emergency alert messages during threat-to-life situations provides substantial benefit to emergency management agencies

and to the Canadians receiving the alerts. The upcoming addition of wireless devices to the alerting ecosystem will make public alerting that much more valuable for Canadians.

The Weather Network is clearly a valuable public service that is relied on by a variety of Canadian organizations, in addition to its millions of viewers. It will be most beneficial to Canadians if it remains broadly available as part of the basic television service.

Sincerely,

Jerry Shields
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