



NEWS & INFORMATION

350 Maple Street • Des Moines, Iowa 50319 • 515.281.5979

John Norris, Chairman

Krista Tanner, Board member

Darrell Hanson, Board member

June 20, 2008

For Immediate Release

12-08

Contact: Rob Hillesland 515.281.3551

Email: rob.hillesland@iub.state.ia.us

Web site: www.state.ia.us/iub

Television viewers should prepare for conversion to all-digital TV

The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) is one of many state utility commissions assisting the National Telecommunications Information Agency (NTIA) and Federal Communications Commission in alerting the public about the nation's fast-approaching transition to digital-only television.

Although the IUB has no regulatory jurisdiction over this TV transition, the Board encourages people to access information about it on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Web site, www.naruc.org/DTV.

All full-power TV stations in the United States will discontinue analog broadcasts on February 17, 2009. At that time, TVs currently receiving those over-the-air broadcasts that are not capable of receiving digital broadcasts will stop working unless they are connected to a converter box. This may be the case for people that use "rabbit ear" or rooftop antennas to receive the broadcasts of local stations. Televisions connected to cable, satellite, or another pay TV service should continue to work without a converter box.

The NTIA is administering the federal government's national program to provide coupons to the public to help offset the purchase price of converter boxes. All households in the United States and its territories are able to request up to two coupons worth \$40 each toward the purchase of converter boxes. The coupons expire 90 days after they are issued. Consumers need only provide their name, address, whether they subscribe to a pay TV service, and a request for one or two coupons. Coupons are issued on a first come, first serve basis and the last ones will be sent by March 31, 2009. More information about the coupon program is available at www.ntia.doc.gov/dtvcoupon or by calling toll free 1-888-388-2009. The TTY number for the hearing impaired is 1-877-530-2634.

###