

# The Potential Impact of the FCC's National Broadband Plan on Broadcasters and Viewers

July 2011

# The Incredible Shrinking Free and Local TV Band

# Free and Local Broadcast TV Channels Before DTV Transition

**VHF**  
12 channels

**UHF**  
55 channels

TV Ch. 2 - 13

TV Ch. 14 - 69

VHF: Very High Frequency

UHF: Ultra High Frequency

# Free and Local Broadcast TV Channels After DTV Transition

**VHF**

12 channels

TV Ch. 2 – 13

Currently 482 TV stations located in VHF

**UHF**

37 channels

TV Ch. 14 - 51

Currently 1273 TV stations located in UHF

**Reclaimed Spectrum**

18 channels

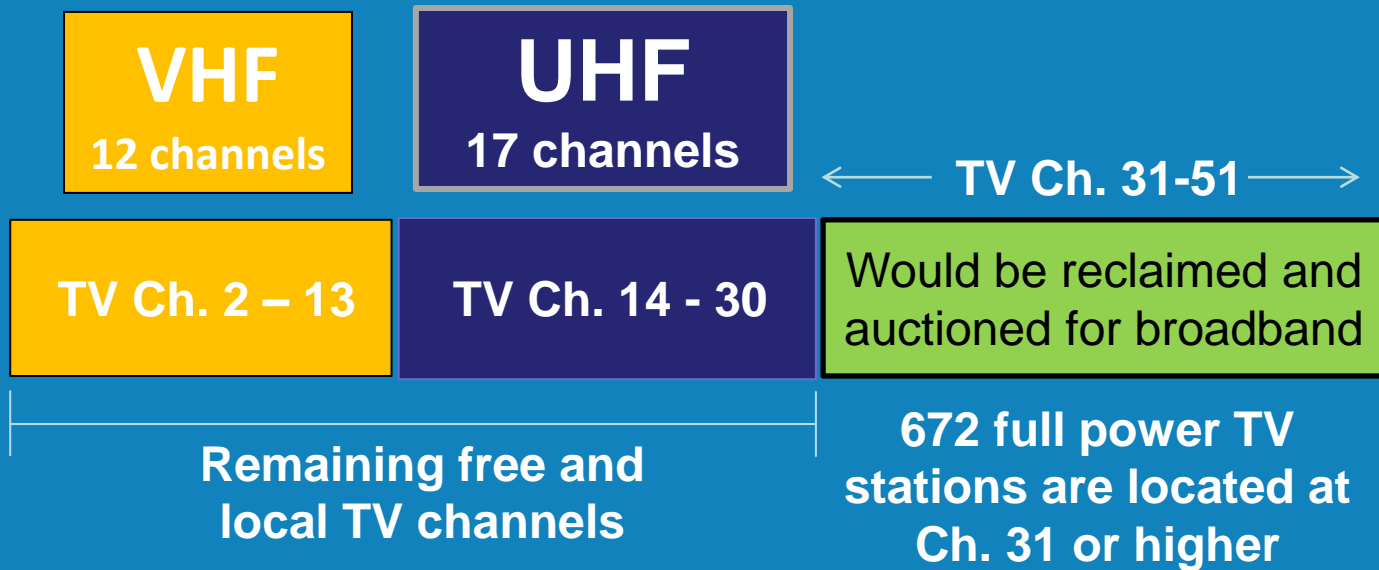
Ch. 52-69

174 full power DTV stations were located at Ch. 52 or higher

VHF: Very High Frequency

UHF: Ultra High Frequency

# Potential Impact of FCC's National Broadband Plan to Reclaim 20 Broadcast TV Channels



**Less Than Half of UHF Band Remains TV Channels**

# Clearing Free and Local TV Channels From Channels 31-51

# Number of Full Power, Class A and LPTV Stations That Are Directly Affected By Reclaiming 20 Broadcast Channels

Station Type	Total Number of Stations	Number of Stations above Channel 30
Full Power	1,735	672
Class A	502	209
LPTV	6,434	3,214
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,671</b>	<b>4,095</b>

# Full Power Stations above Ch. 30 by Affiliation

Affiliation	# of Stations above Ch.30	Percent of Total
ABC (incl. O&O)	53	24%
CBS (incl. O&O)	60	27%
NBC (incl. O&O)	75	33%
FOX (incl. O&O)	68	35%
UNIVISION	23	48%
TELEMUNDO	16	73%
ION	43	70%
PBS	106	36%

Affiliation	# of Stations above Ch.30	Percent of Total
MyNetwork	42	66%
CW	50	53%
ETV	11	44%
TELEFUTURA	11	58%
Trinity	18	53%
Independent stations	77	52%



# Repacking TV Stations That Stay in Business

Repacking: Forced relocation of TV stations to different channels

# Impact of Repacking

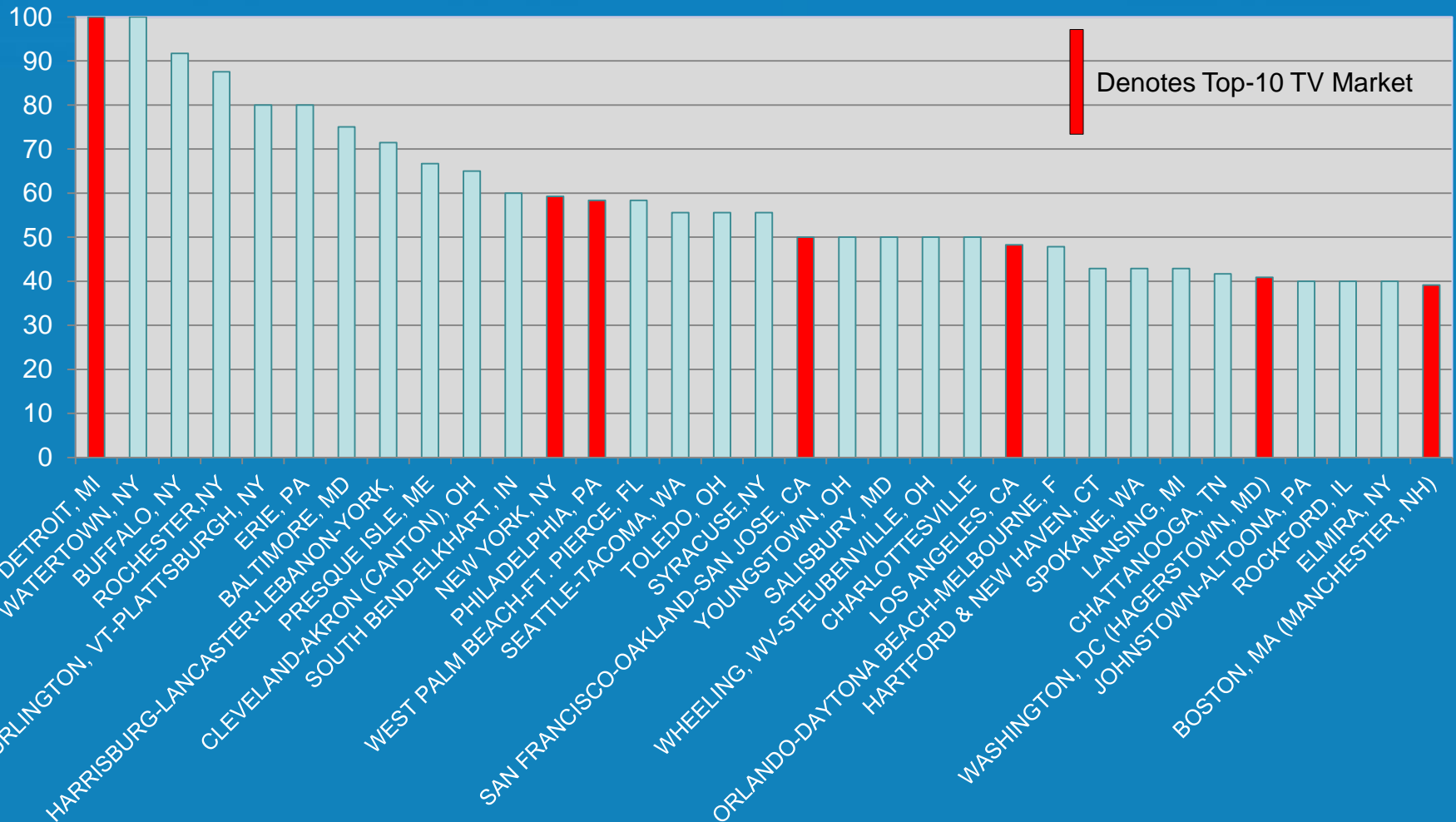
## *Two Classes of Stations:*

- 1. Stations located in channels 31-51 that elect to stay in business must be relocated to lower channels*
- 2. Stations located in channels 2-30 that may have to move due to **repacking** to accommodate displaced stations moving from channels 31-51*

## Effect of Repacking on Full Power Stations in Top-10 Markets After Reclamation of 20 Broadcast TV Channels

<b>DMA Ranking</b>	<b>Market</b>	<b>Total Number of Full Power Stations</b>	<b># of Stations Without Their Own Channel</b>
1	New York, NY	23	11
2	Los Angeles, CA	27	13
3	Chicago, IL	16	4
4	Philadelphia, PA	19	12
5	Boston, MA (Manchester, NH)	21	5
6	San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA	23	13
7	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	18	1
8	Washington, DC (Hagerstown)	19	5
9	Atlanta, GA	14	0
10	Detroit, MI	9	9

# After Repacking, the Following Markets Will Require 40% or More Stations to Go Off the Air to Reclaim 20 Broadcast TV Channels



\* Total full power and Class A stations, accounting for border protection with Canada and Mexico

# Disruption to Viewers Caused By Clearing and Repacking of TV Stations

# DTV Transition and the National Broadband Plan

## 2009 DTV Transition

- Recovered 108 MHz (Ch. 52 to 69)
- 174 full power stations on channels 52-69 were cleared
- Stations had analog and digital channels during transition so none had to go off-the-air completely
- About 450 stations changed channels

## FCC's National Broadband Plan Incentive Auction Approach

- Proposes to Recover 120 MHz (Ch. 31 to 51)
- 672 full power stations on channels 31 or higher to be cleared
- Minimum of 210 full power stations in top 61 markets must go off-the-air permanently
- 800 to 1200 full power stations likely required to change channels

# Viewer Disruption

- During DTV transition, stations had analog channel while switching to digital channel so no viewers experienced a temporary loss of signal
- Between 800 to 1200 full power stations will experience viewer disruption ranging between a few hours to a few weeks while station facilities are modified
  - i.e. construction/modification of transmission tower, installation of new equipment
- Over-the-air viewers will not be the only consumers affected by service disruption while facilities are modified. Cable and satellite subscribers would also not be able to receive broadcast programming.