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WHAT THE INDUSTRY READS FIRST

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CLOCK TICKS IN FCC-ABC LICENSE DOCKET

Time's almost up in the **FCC**'s docket calling for the early license renewals of **Disney**'s **ABC** stations, and all eight of them still have something to say about how the agency has approached the order. So do several members of Congress who represent the areas that fall within their respective station footprints.

Wednesday was the deadline to file formal opposition to the petitions seeking denial of the eight licenses. Disney, ABC and the stations' joint filing were direct in claiming the FCC is singling them out "because [the *Trump* Administration] dislikes the content and viewpoints expressed on ABC network programs." They cited more than 140,000 comments submitted in the Commission's docket (that number now exceeds 153,000), asserting that "over 95%" of filings are in support of the stations.

"These supporters span the ideological spectrum but share a fundamental commitment to free speech and press freedom," the filing read. "The FCC has spent the last 18 months searching for some pretext for revoking the Stations' licenses. The Commission has found none, because the Stations easily meet the standard for license renewal."

Disney also characterized the FCC's actions as intimidation, particularly pointing out Chairman *Brendan Carr*'s infamous "We can do this the easy way or the hard way" response to remarks made by late-night host *Jimmy Kimmel* back in September. When it came to groups that filed petitions to deny, such as the **Center for American Rights**, **Media Action Center** and **Frequency Forward**, Disney and ABC contended that their arguments should be tossed as they fail to pinpoint specific violations.

"Petitioners identify no violation of the Communications Act or FCC rules of any kind, let alone one that could justify the extraordinary remedy of a designation for hearing or denial of a license renewal," Disney and ABC said. "That the Commission nonetheless demanded early review of all of the ABC Owned Stations' licenses at once lays bare the true purpose of these proceedings: to punish ABC for the content of its speech and to chill future speech that the Administration dislikes."

Democratic FCC Commissioner Anna Gomez issued a statement applauding the level of public input in the docket, reiterating her stance that the agency lacks standing to threaten ABC's licenses. Gomez and Disney/ABC weren't the only ones to have a say. **Freedom of the Press**, the **American Civil Liberties Union**, **Public Knowledge** and **TechFreedom** submitted comments urging the FCC to reject the denial petitions, echoing the aforementioned claims of First Amendment concerns and perceived retaliation from the Trump administration.

QUOTABLE

"When Disney reports fiscal (June) Q3 2026 earnings next Wednesday, August 5th, we expect Disney to announce its first major strategic move under new CEO Josh D'Amaro. We believe Disney will announce the sale of its 50% stake in A&E Networks to its joint venture partner, Hearst, in an all-cash transaction at a low single-digit EBITDA multiple." - LightShed Partners ahead of Disney's 3Q26 earnings call next week

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Meanwhile, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press noted Carr having flagged ABC's decision not to air Trump's July 16 address as potentially relevant to the renewal, saying his statement illustrates the editorial coercion that sits at the heart of the dispute. The Reporters Committee wasn't alone—a bipartisan group of former FCC chairs, commissioners, chiefs of staff, general counsels and bureau chiefs wrote that the agency "was long dedicated to ensuring that broadcast spectrum helped to create the marketplace of ideas that undergirds robust political debate. We have taken great pride in the Commission's historically bipartisan commitment to that position, and we fear our democracy will suffer greatly if the Chairman continues to flout it."

The ABC early license renewal proceeding is one of two active FCC dockets targeting Disney properties. A separate inquiry into whether "The View" violated equal time provisions has drawn its own round of comments and First Amendment objections. Carr has maintained both proceedings are part of a broader push to reinvigorate public interest obligations for broadcasters.

Following Wednesday's opposition deadline, a reply period will remain open through Aug. 5. Once that closes, the FCC would then either grant the renewals or move the matter to a hearing with an administrative law judge.

CABLE PIONEER BOB MIRON DIES AT 89

When the **Cable Center** selected its inaugural winner for the Bresnan Ethics Award in 2011, there was one name that easily rose to the top: *Bob Miron*. The former Chairman and CEO of **Advance/Newhouse Communications** and Chairman of **Discovery Communications** passed away Wednesday at age 89, leaving behind a legacy that helped shape the broadband and cable industry of today. Miron's fingerprints are everywhere—from helping to recruit *David Zaslav* to Discovery to creating a jv with **Time Warner Cable** and Advance that was eventually acquired by **Charter**. Even his children carried that influence forward—*Nomi Bergman* and *Steve Miron* have each risen to lead Advance/Newhouse, ensuring the family's mark on the industry extends well beyond his retirement in 2010. Advance is one of Charter's largest shareholders today. Described by **Comcast** Co-CEO *Brian Roberts* as "the moral conscience for an entire industry for over five decades," Miron helped secure industry support for **C-SPAN**, Cable in the Classroom and **The Walter Kaitz Foundation**. "We all looked up to him for thoughtful insights delivered with humor, modesty and an update on Syracuse basketball. He was one of a kind," recalled former **NCTA** CEO and **Weather Channel** Chairman *Decker Anstrom*, referring to Miron's love for his alma mater to which he gave generously for more than six decades. That same civic instinct is what drew him to C-SPAN, where he served on the board for more than 30 years, including a term as Executive Chairman, and his son Steve serves on the board today. "Far more than a trusted adviser to *Brian Lamb* and C-SPAN's leaders, Bob was a wise counselor, a loyal friend, and one of our most steadfast champions. He believed deeply in C-SPAN's mission and continually inspired us to do more and do better,"

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C-SPAN said. Current **NCTA** President/CEO *Cory Gardner* called Miron "a thoughtful and respected voice in our industry," adding that his legacy "reaches far beyond business through his generosity and dedication to education and his community. We are grateful for his many contributions throughout his life." Miron is survived by his wife of 64 years, *Diane Goldblatt Miron*, and their three children, Nomi Bergman, Steve Miron and *Lisa Sidel*. A celebration of life will take place at Temple Adath Yeshurun in Syracuse, NY on Aug 2. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Miron Cardiac Care Center c/o Crouse Health Foundation in memory of Bob Miron, continuing his lifelong commitment to strengthening the health and well-being of the Syracuse community.

SHENTEL BASKS IN FIBER'S GLO

In the midst of a hyper-competitive broadband environment, **Shentel** had a 2Q26 to remember. Not only did it add its 100,000th Glo Fiber customer, but the overall 6,200 net additions it recorded were a record high, helping fiber revenue grow 21.4% YOY and total revenue increase by 5.5% to $93.5 million. President/CEO *Ed McKay* noted that for the first time, Shentel's fiber businesses represented 51% of consolidated revenue and exceeded the combined revenue from the operator's incumbent broadband and RLEC operations. Although net loss was $7.7 million—a decrease from $9 million a year ago—McKay still anticipates returning to positive free cash flow at the beginning of 2027, aided by the imminent completion of its FTTH build. On the competitive front, Shentel had to defend from satellite competitors in 1Q26, but noted 2Q "saw virtually no Glo Fiber churn to satellite providers during the quarter." McKay added that FWA's impact has been minimal, except in rural markets. Shentel's video RGUs dipped 14.1% to 34,615 "as customers continue to switch to streaming video services."

AMC'S TWD WIN OVERSHADOWED BY ROUGH 2Q26

AMC Global Media scored a $500 million five-year licensing deal with **Netflix**, which will be the exclusive streaming home of all seven "The Walking Dead" series, starting in 2027. The deal also allows for the original Walking Dead show to stream on **AMC+** for the first time. The programmer raised its guidance to $2.45 billion in revenue for the full year and adjusted operating income to $420 million after the move. Cash flow is also expected to come in at $220 million. "This agreement provides us visibility over a multiyear time horizon," said AMCGM CFO/EVP *Hozefa Lokhandwala*, who made his earnings call debut for the company Thursday. Payments from Netflix are due in quarterly cash installments, with AMCGM expecting approximately $25 million to come in this year and $100 million per year through 2030 and the remainder due in 2031. But there were rough seas elsewhere in the quarter. Consolidated net revenue declined 9% YOY to $547 million and missed Wall Street expectations by approximately $11 million. Subscription was also down by 5%, reflecting a 17% affiliate decline that offset 6% growth in streaming rev. "We're starting to see improving video sub trends in cable, although it's still early days," CEO *Kristin Dolan* said of the decline, noting that she was happy to see **Charter** was only down 21,000 video subs in 2Q26. "We're seeing significant engagement and authentication for people who have the opportunity to engage with AMC+ in some of these hard bundles," she added of the Charter deal. The company's flagship streamer also recently launched in **DirecTV**'s entertainment genre package. "As streaming and linear continue to converge, an increasing number of viewers experience our services through hard-bundled arrangements," Dolan said. AMC+ and **ALLBLK** have already generated 2.3 million activations across Charter and **Philo**. The programmer also recently renewed its distribution deal with **Comcast** and **YouTube TV**, the latter of which includes all seven of AMC's streaming services, five linear nets, many of its FAST channels and the future launch of networks in YouTube TV's genre packages.

SPECTRUM WORKER SHOT DURING ROBBERY

A Spectrum technician in Cincinnati was wounded early Thursday morning while out on a call. "We can confirm one of our Spectrum employees was shot this morning. Our thoughts are with our colleague and their family at this time," a **Charter** spokesperson told ***CFX***. "We are saddened and concerned by the violent attack on one of our team members who was working to keep customers connected. We are working with the Cincinnati Police Department as they investigate this incident." According to Cincinnati police, the shooting happened around 5am when an SUV parked next to the employee. A man with a red bandana proceeded to rob the technician at gunpoint before shooting him in the neck and fleeing the scene. The Spectrum employee was taken to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center with life-threatening injuries, while the suspect(s) remain at large. Spectrum is offering up to $25,000 to eligible persons who provide credible information on those involved, encouraging folks to call 833-404-TIPS (8477) or Cincinnati Crimestoppers at 513-352-3040.

VERIZON IS READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL

Verizon is comping **YouTube**'s **NFL Sunday Ticket** package for eligible new and existing customers for the 2026 season. The $480 value will be offered to customers who purchase a phone and activate a new smartphone line on an Unlimited Ultimate and Unlimited Plus Plan, upgrade an existing line to one of those two phone plans after the purchase of a phone, or switch to select Fios or Frontier Fiber home internet plans. Existing Verizon customers can grab a standalone Sunday Ticket subscription for $234 and also have the option to bundle in **NFL RedZone** for $276. The Verizon Shine loyalty program is also running a sweepstakes to give away an all-expenses-paid five-day trip to Paris to watch the Steelers and Saints game the week of Aug. 3.

ESPN APP WELCOMES NFL NETWORK

The integration of **NFL Network** into **ESPN**'s ecosystem continued Thursday with the net being added to the ESPN app. ESPN Unlimited subscribers will now be able to watch the 19 preseason and seven exclusive regular-season games on NFL Network, in addition to more than 1,500 hours of live studio programming, original content, news coverage and more. NFL Network switched owners after ESPN shook hands with the NFL to exchange a 10% equity stake for NFL Network, **NFL RedZone** and other NFL Media assets.

T-MOBILE'S HOME INTERNET DEALS

T-Mobile is offering a free month of 5G Home Internet plan and up to $200 in credit to new customers who switch to the uncarrier. New subs who sign up for the Rely ($60/month) or Amplified ($70/month) plans will get a $100 virtual gift card and those who go with the All-in ($70/month) plan get the full $200. T-Mobile's broadband tiers come with unlimited data and a price lock for five years.

PROGRAMMING

UPtv renewed "Sugarcreek Amish Mysteries" for Season 2, which will premiere in 2027. The first season reached 1.8 million viewers and ranked as a top 20 ad-supported cable series in HH and W18+, per **Nielsen**. – FAST channel **NBC News Now** is bringing journalist *Christine Romans* into the fold with a new program called "Current." It'll stream from 10am to noon each day, covering business news as well as technology and AI stories. The free channel is available on multiple FAST platforms and **YouTube**.

BASIC CABLE P2+ PRIME RANKINGS*
(07/20/26-07/26/26)

MON-SUN	MC US AA%	MC US AA (000)
FNC	0.697	2242
MS NOW	0.293	942
HGTV	0.235	757
CNN	0.204	657
HALL	0.192	618
ESPN	0.172	555
USA	0.171	551
DISC	0.163	525
HIST	0.160	516
TBS	0.157	507
TLC	0.142	456
FOOD	0.129	416
GSN	0.129	414
INSP	0.113	365
TV LAND	0.113	363
A&E	0.092	295
ID	0.092	295
BRAVO	0.091	294
HALLMYS	0.087	280
AMC	0.087	280
NAN	0.084	272
OXY	0.082	263
LIFE	0.081	261
FX	0.080	258
TNT	0.073	235
COM	0.068	218
WETV	0.066	213
FRFM	0.064	206
NWSMX	0.060	194
REELZ	0.060	192
ADSM	0.056	180
BET	0.056	179
SNDNCE	0.055	176
PRMNT	0.054	174
SYFY	0.054	173
MGNLA	0.054	173
FETV	0.053	169
NAT GEO	0.049	159
FXX	0.049	158
E!	0.048	155
LMN	0.048	154
TRAVEL	0.048	153
IFC TV	0.046	148
HBO	0.045	146
APL	0.044	143
FS1	0.043	139

**P2+ L+SD rankers are based on national Nielsen numbers, not coverage.*