

DISH Urges TEGNA to Extend Contract; Potential TEGNA Blackout Would Impact Millions

TEGNA threatens ahead of contract expiration to blackout 51 stations in 39 markets nationally

DISH offers to extend existing local channel contract, with retroactive "true-up" for new rates, which would keep local channels up for the benefit of consumers while negotiations continue

ENGLEWOOD, Colo.--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--DISH Network L.L.C., a wholly-owned subsidiary of DISH Network Corporation (NASDAQ:DISH), issued the following statement in reaction to TEGNA Inc.'s threat to block DISH customers' access to 51 local channels in 39 markets nationwide.

"Only TEGNA can choose to black out its channels. DISH is actively working to reach a deal before the contract expires," said Warren Schlichting, DISH senior vice president of Programming. "We have offered a contract extension to TEGNA, including a retroactive "true up" when new rates are agreed upon, to keep the channels available to customers in the event that we are unable to reach a deal by the deadline."

The "true-up" would ensure that TEGNA was made whole at the new rates for the period of any contract extension. TEGNA has not accepted that offer. The contract is set to expire Sept. 30.

"Since we offered to retroactively true them up when new rates were agreed upon, TEGNA has nothing to lose and consumers have everything to gain from an extension of our existing contract that would allow negotiations to continue," added Schlichting. "Instead, TEGNA has not accepted our offer and has chosen to use consumers to gain leverage for the economic benefit of TEGNA, while potentially causing substantial harm and disruption to the lives of those very same consumers who ultimately will bear the brunt of the unfair

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price increases sought by TEGNA.”

DISH and TEGNA have been making steady progress in their recent negotiations, and DISH was hopeful that a mutual agreement would be reached to renew carriage of the TEGNA local stations in due course.

“DISH has successfully negotiated agreements representing hundreds of stations in recent months that benefit all parties, including our viewers,” said Schlichting. “We are unsure why TEGNA decided to involve customers in the contract negotiation process at a point when there is still time for the two parties to reach a mutually beneficial deal.”

For a list of affected stations, visit <https://dishnetwork.newshq.businesswire.com/document-library/tegna-station-list>.

About DISH

DISH Network Corp. (NASDAQ:DISH), through its subsidiaries, provides approximately 13.932 million pay-TV subscribers, as of June 30, 2015, with the highest-quality programming and technology with the most choices at the best value. Subscribers enjoy a high definition line-up with more than 200 national HD channels, the most international channels, and award-winning HD and DVR technology. DISH Network Corporation is a Fortune 250 company. Visit www.dish.com.

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