

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. MCDOWELL

Re: Applications of Citadel Broadcasting Company for Consent to Renewal and for Assignment of Licenses; and of Shareholders of Citadeal Broadcasting Corporation and of the Walt Disney Co. for Consent to Transfers of Control, Memorandum Opinion and Order and Notice of Apparent Liability

In this Order, we approve the sale of 24 ABC radio stations, all of which are located in top-20 radio markets, to Citadel, which until now has owned stations in markets below the top-30 Arbitron markets. As we have seen with other recent transactions, this transaction results in a “big media” company selling off broadcast properties. Because there is virtually no overlap between the radio markets in which the ABC and Citadel stations operate, this transfer complies with our local radio ownership rule. Competition will be improved further because as a result of the transfer, Citadel must divest its grandfathered interests in 11 stations in seven markets, where such ownership was permitted under our previous ownership rule but not under our current rule. The relevant markets are Albuquerque, New Mexico; Little Rock, Arkansas; Charleston, South Carolina; Portland, Maine; Saginaw-Bay City, Michigan; and Lafayette, Louisiana. This is a terrific buying opportunity that I hope new entrants and small businesses, including those owned by women and minorities, will be able to take advantage of to increase the diversity of broadcast owners in our country.

I thank the Media Bureau for its hard work and I support the Order.