

Date: August 22, 2008
To: Area Media
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Also posted at <http://www.nhcgov.com>
Re: DTV Forum at Kure Beach

(New Hanover County)— On August 28, 2008, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Federal Communications Commission (FCC) staff will be at Kure Beach Town Hall, 117 Settler’s Lane, Kure Beach, to demonstrate how to install a digital-to-analog converter box on an analog television.

Beginning at noon on September 8, 2008, Wilmington-area TV stations will only broadcast digital signals to their viewers in New Hanover, Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus and Pender counties. This change applies to WWAY (ABC), WSFX-TV (FOX), WECT (NBC), WILM-LP (CBS) and W51CW (Trinity Broadcasting). The rest of the nation will make the switch to digital on Feb. 17, 2009.

The digital television (DTV) transition will affect those who watch free over-the-air television through a rooftop antenna or “rabbit ears.” If you watch over-the-air programs on an analog TV, you must buy a digital-to-analog converter box, buy a digital television or subscribe to a paid TV service such as cable or satellite. You should not need a new antenna if you get good quality reception on analog Channels 2 through 51 with your existing antenna.

Digital-to-analog converter boxes are available in stores for a one-time cost of between \$40 and \$70. To ease the cost of the switch, federal government is offering two \$40 coupons per household. For more information on the coupons, visit www.DTV2009.gov, or call 1-888-388-2009 (voice) or 1-877-530-2634 (TTY). Consumers will be able to order coupons at the Kure Beach demonstration on August 28th.

The FCC has staff available to help people understand how to make the transition to DTV. New Hanover County residents may contact Lauren Kravetz at (202) 904-7747. Elderly, disabled and other special needs consumers who need help hooking up a converter box may call the New Hanover County Fire Service, at 798-4DTV (798-4388). Firefighters will assist television viewers with installation of the converter box, check smoke detectors and offer other fire and life safety information.