News

Comcast subscribers to lose six channels

BY MATT ROCHELEAU FOR THE SUN CHRONICLE Tuesday, July 15, 2008 2:35 AM EDT

Almost one-third of Comcast New England subscribers will see six channels disappear over the next few days.

As the cable provider switches those channels to a digital signal between today and Thursday, residents using its analog service will no longer be able to view the channels, Comcast spokeswoman Jennifer Niloff.

Before Aug. 15, analog users can request a free digital converter box from Comcast for one year without paying the monthly fee of $3.95, she said.

The 70 percent of Comcast New England users who are digital subscribers will still have access to the channels without interruption, but the channel numbers will change, Niloff said.

The channels are: MSNBC which will now be Channel 251, TruTV will be Channel 186, Hallmark will be Channel 208, EWTN will be Channel 238, BCTV will be Channel 268 and Inspiration will be Channel 234. CN8 will remain available to all users as its number moves from Channel 3 to Channel 188.

NJT, Channel 56, will no longer be available at all on Comcast, according to www.comcastdigitalworld.com, where more information is available.

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Comcast, the only cable provider in the country that still offers any analog channels, wanted to make room for more high-definition, on-demand programming and faster Internet service, Niloff said.

A single analog channel takes up to 10 times as much room as a digital channel, or three times as much as a high-definition channel.

The transition comes separate from the federally mandated Digital Broadcast Transition in February 2009, which will not affect cable companies or their customers.

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mmarcia wrote on Jul 15, 2008 2:31 PM:
" There are no competitors! I'm sure Comcast has an agreement that they will be the exclusive carrier. They are the only option, unless you want that ugly dish in your yard. "

burf1 wrote on Jul 15, 2008 12:15 PM:
" Dump cable!!! Directv is vastly superior and more cost effective anyway! "

realist wrote on Jul 15, 2008 8:03 AM:
" The local towns should be looking at their contracts with Comcast. They are required to keep a minimum number of channels.
Of course if it were up to Comcast they would broadcast nothing but Home Shopping and Pay Per View services. "

foxres wrote on Jul 15, 2008 2:53 AM:
" Are any of the competitors or other services better, worse, the same? Do they switch channels or pricing tiers often? "

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