

## Langdon, Jeff

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**From:** Crandall, Jeff  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 06, 2016 10:18 AM  
**To:** Langdon, Jeff  
**Subject:** FW: Serve ticket#: 1229510 Last Name: Schlameuss

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**From:** FCC [<mailto:consumercomplaints@fcc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 06, 2016 8:58 AM  
**To:** Crandall, Jeff  
**Subject:** Serve ticket#: 1229510 Last Name: Schlameuss

## - Please type your reply above this line - ##

**Due Date:** 11/05/2016  
Serve Date: 10/06/2016

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Link to Ticket: <https://fcctest.zendesk.com/agent/tickets/1229510>  
Subject: Material Degradation of Local Commercial Broadcast Signal on CATV System  
Tags: availability\_tv cable\_tv carrier\_response\_pending no\_filing\_on\_behalf other pennsylvania  
Email: [rich.schlameuss@gmail.com](mailto:rich.schlameuss@gmail.com)  
Method: - Cable  
Issue:- Availability  
Number subject to complaint:

Company Name:  
Other Company Name: Blue Ridge Communications  
Account #:  
First: Richard  
Last: Schlameuss  
Address: 161 Huffman Hill Road  
City: East Stroudsburg  
State: pennsylvania  
Zip: 18302  
Phone where to be contacted: 617-270-4053  
Filing on Behalf of Someone: No  
Relationship:  
First Name:  
Last Name:  
Serve Status: carrier\_response\_pending

Ticket Information:

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Mary Pontious (FCC Complaints)

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Oct 6, 8:58 AM EDT

**Private note**

Please use the Macro called "Closure Response to FCC" when you are ready to respond. To view instructions on how to respond see <https://us-fcc.box.com/how-to-respond>.

This constitutes a notice of informal complaint filed with the FCC against your company. Your response to the consumer (with a copy to the FCC) is due no later than 30 days from the date of this notice.

For more information on your legal responsibilities, see <https://us-fcc.app.box.com/complaintnotice>.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact the FCC at [carriersupport@fcc.gov](mailto:carriersupport@fcc.gov).

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**Rich Schlameuss**

Sep 30, 9:55 PM EDT

Rich Schlameuss was not signed in when this comment was submitted. [Learn more](#)

Carriage of Digital Television Broadcast Signals: Amendment to Part 76 of the Commission's Rules, CS Docket No. 98-120, Fifth Report and Order, 27 FCC Rcd 6529, 6546-49, ¶¶ 19-23 (2012) ("Fifth Report and Order")

Section 614(b)(4)(A) of the Act provides that:

"[t]he signals of local commercial television stations that a cable operator carries shall be carried without material degradation. The Commission shall adopt carriage standards to ensure that, to the extent technically feasible, the quality of signal processing and carriage provided by a cable system for the carriage of local commercial television stations will be no less than that provided by the system for carriage of any other type of signal."

Blue Ridge Communications is in the process of rolling out switched digital video across its system. The new system requires every tv to have a digital transport adaptor (DTA Mini Box) or a traditional cable box. The new DTA Mini Box is HD capable. However, Blue Ridge Communications is not providing broadcast television stations in HD with the DTA Mini Box, as required in the above ruling. Instead, they are reducing the signal to standard definition. This appears to be contrary to the ruling above as it is a material degradation of signal despite the availability of the technical resources to provide the signal.

If my interpretation of the rule above is not correct, please let me know. However, if Blue Ridge Communications is not in compliance with the rule, please inform both of us.

You are an agent. Add a comment by replying to this email or [view ticket in Zendesk](#).

**Ticket #** 1229510  
**Status** Open  
**Requester** Rich Schlameuss  
**CCs** -  
**Group** Blue Ridge Communications  
**Assignee** Jeff Crandall  
**Priority** -  
**Type** Ticket  
**Channel** Web Form

This email is a service from FCC Complaints. Delivered by [Zendesk](#)



October 14, 2016

Mary Pontious  
Consumer Complaints  
Serve Ticket#1229510  
Last Name: Schlameuss

Dear Mary Pontious,

Mr. Schlameuss' complaint is that Blue Ridge is not providing broadcast television stations in HD on the DTA mini box, according to his interpretation of Section 614(b)(4)(A).

Blue Ridge does not degrade the Broadcaster's HD signals as referenced in Section 614(b)(4)(A) of the Act. Broadcasters transmit their signals in both High Definition and Standard Definition. Blue Ridge transmits the Standard Definition signal without degradation. At this time, Broadcaster's High Definition signals are available from Blue Ridge with the purchase of our HD service. It is not presently technically feasible, due to network constraints, to transmit Broadcaster's High Definition signals through DTA mini boxes even though the box itself is HD capable. Additionally, the HD Broadcast signals are available by directly connecting the cable to HD capable TVs with a Qam tuner. If you have any further questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Jeff Langdon  
Blue Ridge Communications

Cc. Richard Schlameuss

