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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 25, 2008 DA 08-1962 **NEWS MEDIA CONTACT** Robert Kenny: (202) 418-2668 Email: <u>Robert.kenny@fcc.gov</u>

THE FCC'S PUBLIC SAFETY & HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU ANNOUNCES THE DE-ACTIVATION OF THE DISASTER INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM (DIRS) FOR TROPICAL DEPRESSION FAY

Washington, DC – The Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) of the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) has announced the de-activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS) for Tropical Depression Fay. DIRS is a voluntary, efficient, web-based system that communications providers, including wireless, wireline, broadcast, and cable providers, can use to report communications infrastructure status and situational awareness information during times of crises.¹ Communications providers are advised not to submit additional information related to the effects of Tropical Depression Fay through DIRS.

The Commission continues to encourage all communications providers (wireline carriers, wireless carriers, broadcasters, and cable system operators) that choose to participate in DIRS to provide contact information for any and all individuals that will be providing information on the status of their network in the event of a disaster. Contact information includes contact name, company name, phone number, cell phone number, Blackberry/pager number, and e-mail address. This information will be secured by the Commission and protected from public release.

For further information, please contact Jeffery Goldthorp of the PSHSB's Communications Systems Analysis Division at (202) 418-1096 or Jeffery.Goldthorp@fcc.gov.

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¹ On July 21, 2007, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the DIRS information collection under OMB Control Number 3060-1003. This OMB approval expires on July 31, 2010.