

- News
 - Obituaries
 - Breaking News
 - Weather
 - Nation
 - Photos
 - Politics
 - Weird News
 - World
- Business
- Sports
- Entertainment
- Living
- Classifieds
- Archives
- Contact Us
- Shopping



Our Site Tools

Weather

Aberdeen	45 26
Minneapolis/St. Paul	50 34
Grand Forks	44 25

Local Events

Yellow Pages

Discussion Boards

Maps & Directions

Search for

[Back to Home >](#)

Wednesday, Oct 15, 2003

News

Posted on Fri, Oct. 03, 2003

Rapid City will host FCC hearing

Associated Press

STIOUX FALLS, S.D. - Rapid City will be the location for one of six hearings across the county that the Federal Communications Commission will hold on media ownership regulations, said Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein.

The Rapid City hearings is scheduled to take place in April 2004. Adelstein, a South Dakota native, will co-chair the hearing.

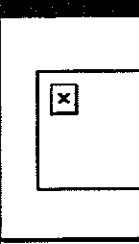
"I'm thrilled the FCC will come to Rapid City in April," Adelstein said in a news release. "Our goal is to give consumers a forum to tell us how well television and radio stations are meeting the needs of local communities in South Dakota and across the country."

The FCC voted in June to ease decades-old rules governing ownership of newspapers and television and radio stations. The changes allow individual companies to own TV stations reaching nearly half the nation's viewers and combinations of newspapers and broadcast outlets in the same community.

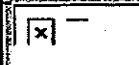
Major media companies said the changes were needed because the old regulations hindered their ability to grow and compete in a market altered by cable television, satellite broadcasting and the Internet. But lawmakers from both parties and a broad range of

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groups criticized the changes, saying the FCC regulations give large media companies too much control over what people see, hear and read.

Congress and the courts are considering several efforts to modify or repeal the rules. A federal appeals court has temporarily placed the rules on hold.

The five other cities scheduled to host hearings are: Charlotte, N.C.; San Antonio; Santa Cruz, Calif.; Portland, Maine; and Washington.



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