

## WXLV-TV (ABC 45) News Operation in Greensboro, North Carolina To Sign-Off the Air

BALTIMORE, Jan. 2 /PRNewswire/ --

Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. (Nasdaq: SBGI) today announced that the news operation on WXLV-TV (ABC 45) in Greensboro, North Carolina will sign-off the air following the 11:00 p.m. newscast on January 11, 2002. WXLV-TV currently programs news Monday through Friday at 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

"This was an incredibly difficult decision for us to make," commented David Smith, CEO and President of Sinclair. "Broadcasters today are faced with increasing competition from new market entrants, such as local cable, who are providing local news. With news advertising revenues being spread among more providers, it has become increasingly more difficult to cover the necessary expenses to operate a quality newscast. Our news has also faced an additional disadvantage due to a signal limitation that prevents complete coverage of the market. Given the competitive economic landscape and our signal disadvantage, we felt it was in the best interest of the marketplace to close the news operation, rather than sacrifice the quality of the news we deliver."

As a result of the news operation closure, up to 35 people will be laid-off at the station. However, Sinclair management plans to offer severance packages, where applicable, and provide outplacement support for all employees affected by the closing.

Several programming options to fill the time periods that the newscasts currently occupy are being considered and will be announced at a later date.

In the past eighteen months, Sinclair has added or expanded news programming in five of its markets and closed one newscast.

Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc., one of the largest and most diversified television broadcasting companies, currently owns and operates, programs, or provides sales services to 63 television stations in 40 markets. Sinclair's television group includes FOX, WB, ABC, CBS, NBC, and UPN affiliates and reaches approximately 25.0% of all U.S. television households. For more information, please visit Sinclair's website at [www.sbgi.net](http://www.sbgi.net).

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