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Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

MM Docket No. 92-7 ✓

In the Matter of

Amendment of Section 73.202(b), RM-7879
Table of Allotments,
FM Broadcast Stations,
(Scotland Neck and Pinetops,
North Carolina)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

Adopted: January 13, 1992; Released: January 22, 1992

Comment Date: March 16, 1992
Reply Comment Date: March 31, 1992

By the Assistant Chief, Allocations Branch:

1. The Commission has before it the petition for rule making filed by WYAL Radio, Inc. ("petitioner"), requesting the substitution of Channel 238C3 for Channel 238A at Scotland Neck, North Carolina, the reallocation of Channel 238C3 to Pinetops, North Carolina, as the community's first local aural transmission service, and the modification of Station WWRT(FM)'s construction permit to specify Pinetops as the station's community of license. Petitioner states that it will apply for the channel, if allotted to Pinetops.

2. Petitioner states that Pinetops is deserving of its first local aural transmission service. It notes that Pinetops has a 1980 U.S. Census population of 1,581 persons, is incorporated, and has its own local government. Pinetops also has its own police department, rescue squad, post office, public schools, library and community center. In addition, the community is served by approximately ten churches, including the Pinetops Baptist Church, Pinetops Presbyterian Church and Pinetops United Methodist Church, as well as approximately 50 businesses and three manufacturing plants. If petitioner's request is granted, it states that Scotland Neck (population 2,834 persons) will continue to receive local aural transmission service from Station WYAL-AM and reception service from WWRT(FM).

3. We believe the public interest would be served by seeking comments on the proposed substitution of Channel 238C3 for Channel 238A at Scotland Neck and its reallocation to Pinetops, North Carolina, since it could provide the community with its first local aural transmission service and permit Station WWRT(FM) to expand its coverage area. Further, the reallocation of Channel 238C3 to Pinetops will not deprive Scotland Neck of its sole

local aural transmission service or result in the reallocation of a channel from a rural community to one within an urbanized area. Channel 238C3 can be allotted to Pinetops in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements with a site restriction of 18 kilometers (11.1 miles) north to accommodate petitioner's desired transmitter site and avoid short-spacings to Station WRNS, Channel 236C, Kinston, North Carolina, and Station WKML, Channel 239C, Lumberton, North Carolina.¹ As requested, we also propose to modify petitioner's construction permit for Station WWRT(FM) to specify the higher class channel at the new community. In accordance with Section 1.420(i) of the Commission's Rules, we will not accept competing expressions of interest in use of Channel 238C3 at Pinetops or require the petitioner to demonstrate the availability of an additional equivalent class channel for use by such parties.

4. Accordingly, we seek comments on the proposed amendment of the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules, for the community listed below, to read as follows:

City	Channel No.	
	Present	Proposed
Pinetops, North Carolina	--	238C3
Scotland Neck, North Carolina	238A	--

5. The Commission's authority to institute rule making proceedings, showings required, cut-off procedures, and filing requirements are contained in the attached Appendix and are incorporated by reference herein. In particular, we note that a showing of continuing interest is required by paragraph 2 of the Appendix before a channel will be allotted.

6. Interested parties may file comments on or before **March 16, 1992**, and reply comments on or before **March 31, 1992**, and are advised to read the Appendix for the proper procedures. Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554. Additionally, a copy of such comments should be served on the petitioner, or its counsel or consultant, as follows:

Mark J. Prak, Esq.
Daniel W. Clark, Esq.
Tharrington, Smith & Hargrove
P.O. Box 1151
209 Fayetteville Street Mall
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602
(Counsel to petitioner)

7. The Commission has determined that the relevant provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to rule making proceedings to amend the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules. See *Certification That Sections 603 and 604 of*

¹ The coordinates for Channel 238C3 at Pinetops are North

Latitude 35-55-54 and West Longitude 77-40-11.

the Regulatory Flexibility Act Do Not Apply to Rule Making to Amend Sections 73.202(b), 73.504 and 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules, 46 FR 11549, February 9, 1981.

8. For further information concerning this proceeding, contact Leslie K. Shapiro, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 634-6530. For purposes of this restricted notice and comment rule making proceeding, members of the public are advised that no *ex parte* presentations are permitted from the time the Commission adopts a Notice of Proposed Rule Making until the proceeding has been decided and such decision is no longer subject to reconsideration by the Commission or review by any court. An *ex parte* presentation is not prohibited if specifically requested by the Commission or staff for the clarification or adduction of evidence or resolution of issues in the proceeding. However, any new written information elicited from such a request or a summary of any new oral information shall be served by the person making the presentation upon the other parties to the proceeding unless the Commission specifically waives this service requirement. Any comment which has not been served on the petitioner constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding. Any reply comment which has not been served on the person(s) who filed the comment, to which the reply is directed, constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Michael C. Ruger
Assistant Chief, Allocations Branch
Policy and Rules Division
Mass Media Bureau

APPENDIX

1. Pursuant to authority found in Sections 4(i), 5(c)(1), 303(g) and (r) and 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Sections 0.61 0.204(b) and 0.283 of the Commission's Rules, IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, as set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached.

2. *Showings Required.* Comments are invited on the proposal(s) discussed in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. Proponent(s) will be expected to answer whatever questions are presented in initial comments. The proponent of a proposed allotment is also expected to file comments even if it only resubmits or incorporates by reference its former pleadings. It should also restate its present intention to apply for the channel if it is allotted and, if authorized, to build a station promptly. Failure to file may lead to denial of the request.

3. *Cut - off Procedures.* The following procedures will govern the consideration of filings in this proceeding.

(a) Counterproposals advanced in this proceeding itself will be considered if advanced in initial comments, so that parties may comment on them in

reply comments. They will not be considered if advanced in reply comments. (See Section 1.420(d) of the Commission's Rules.)

(b) With respect to petitions for rule making which conflict with the proposal(s) in this *Notice*, they will be considered as comments in the proceeding, and Public Notice to this effect will be given as long as they are filed before the date for filing initial comments herein. If they are filed later than that, they will not be considered in connection with the decision in this docket.

(c) The filing of a counterproposal may lead the Commission to allot a different channel than was requested for any of the communities involved.

4. *Comments and Reply Comments; Service.* Pursuant to applicable procedures set out in Sections 1.415 and 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. All submissions by parties to this proceeding or by persons acting on behalf of such parties must be made in written comments, reply comments, or other appropriate pleadings. Comments shall be served on the petitioner by the person filing the comments. Reply comments shall be served on the person(s) who filed comments to which the reply is directed. Such comments and reply comments shall be accompanied by a certificate of service. (See Section 1.420(a), (b) and (c) of the Commission's Rules.)

5. *Number of Copies.* In accordance with the provisions of Section 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, an original and four copies of all comments, reply comments, pleadings, briefs, or other documents shall be furnished the Commission.

6. *Public Inspection of Filings.* All filings made in this proceeding will be available for examination by interested parties during regular business hours in the Commission's Public Reference Room at its headquarters, 1919 M Street N.W., Washington, D.C.