

January 17, 2019

As a station on a Clear Channel of 870 KHZ, we are forced to protect WWL of New Orleans at night Sky Wave all the way to Cedar Rapids, IA, which allows us not to cover the city of Menahga which is only 12 miles south of our night time site. Arguments will be made that we have the FM frequencies now; however, what in the world does the proliferation of FM have to do with improving AM.. I'm still waiting for someone to explain that to me. I must; however, point out it is nice to have another FM frequency. It should be noted many AM listeners have migrated to the FM fill in and have never come back to the AM.

With regards to possible changes in rules, such as nite sky wave from .05 to .1, that would make some sense. Some of the other commenters are asking for .5. This is ridiculous, and as a broadcaster, that this would greatly help. I point out that it would be at the expense of my fellow broadcasters that have had years of investment in their properties. Also, when I'm on the road at night, coming back from a play by play sporting event, I thank my stars they are there to keep me awake!

Solution: (1) Simple compromise at .25 instead of .5, (2) get back to enforcement of incidental noise. You have created a NRSC for broadcasters. Create something similar for all power companies by making them meet a noise standard test on all of their transmissions and generating equipment. What's good for the goose is good for the gander. (3) Mandate sensitivity standards on all AM radios from the antenna to the receiver and make sure they have a digital noise blanker that is fidelity friendly.

In conclusion, I am blessed! I saw this coming and developed all of our AM properties from lowly 1 KW facilities to minimum of 10 kw. My fellow broadcasters said I was nuts. Now the proof is in the pudding. A lot of them can't be heard five miles away due to noise. I still suffer with noise problems, but normally on the 10kw's, it doesn't kick in until 40 miles out and on the 50kw it is pretty solid out to 80 to 150 depending on the soil conductivity.

A ton of other small things can be introduced, but this, I think, would go a long way toward expanding AM improvement and not expanding the FM band. All the consultants and lawyers have their thoughts, but they don't have to pay the bills like the broadcasters do!