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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

April 7, 1995



(In the matter of)  
(R.M. - 8626 )

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION IN COMMENTARY  
CUTOFF FILING DATE ON RM-8626

Dear Members of the Commission,

On behalf of the Amateur Radio Newsline, a programming service provider of news and information primarily to the United States Amateur Radio service, I do place before the Commission a request for a 14 day extension in the commentary cutoff date on RM-8626 from the current May 4, 1995 to May 18, 1995. This being to permit many of those involved in the production and preparation of this type of service and who will be attending a previously scheduled April 30, 1995 seminar session planned to discuss "bulletin services" in the United States Amateur Radio service, the time to evaluate materials presented at that meeting and file comments on this matter.

Petitioners Background:

The Amateur Radio Newsline is an all volunteer organization of broadcast professionals who donate their time and talent in the production of a telephone distributed weekly news bulletin of information to the United States Amateur Radio community. Newsline, then known as the Westlink Radio Network, was founded in July 1976 by Mr. James Hendershot (Amateur Radio call sign WA6VQP) and myself, William M. Pasternak (Amateur Radio call sign WA6ITF) as a local Los Angeles area Amateur Radio news and information service for uses of the then developing 220 MHz Amateur Radio repeater subband.

Within a year, the service was national in scope, and by 1981 it had become respected to a point where the Dayton Amateur Radio Association honored us by selecting myself and then Engineering Director William E. Orenstein (Amateur Radio call sign KH6QX) to be recipients of their Specific Achievement Award in recognition of the creation of the Newsline bulletin programming.

Today, our service corps is made up of about forty-five volunteers around the world who provide input to our production

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facility in Los Angeles California. Numbered among our group are such well known and respected broadcast professionals as Mr. Roy Neal (Amateur Radio call sign K6DUE) whose career as an NBC Network News correspondent and producer spanned over four decades; Mr. David Black (Amateur Radio call sign KB4KCH) who spent twenty-two years as a reporter for NBC affiliated stations in Texas and Alabama; Mr. James K. Davis (Amateur Radio call sign KU8R) who has spent his life as an on-air broadcast personality and radio station manager/owner; and many others.

We believe that each weekly newscast is heard by an estimated 350,000 to 450,000 active radio amateurs throughout North America. We also have developed a word-wide ancillary audience as provided by domestic and foreign Amateur Radio high frequency bulletin station operations. We believe that we have attained this wide of an audience because we provide the kind of a service that radio amateurs want. In direct recognition of this accomplishment, Newsline was honored a second time by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, when in 1989, this writer was selected as Radio Amateur of the Year in specific recognition for the development and continuation of the Newsline service. The only person and group to be honored twice by D.A.R.A.!

Argument:

It is our strong belief that the role we play as a conduit of timely news and information to the United States Amateur Radio Service makes it imperative that we take an active role in commenting to the Commission on the regulatory change request as outlined in RM-8626, but doing so with total objectivity cannot be accomplished without time being granted to further investigate the issues and formulate opinions on the overall matter, before filing to the Commission.

Substantiating Documentation:

On or about December 1, 1994, Mr. Allanson Holly (Amateur Radio call sign KC9RP), producer of the Radio Amateur Information Network (RAIN) was requested by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association; the sponsoring organization of the annual Dayton Hamvention (tm) Amateur Radio convention; to host a forum and open panel discussion on the area of Amateur Radio bulletin preparation and dissemination.

Mr. Holly's seminar session planning was in the final stages of preparation, when on or about April 4, 1995, the Commission did assign the file number RM-8626 to a letter of rule change request filed by Mr. Frederick O. Maia (Amateur Radio call sign W5YI), seeking to effectively ban all one-way transmissions by Amateur Radio operators on the Amateur Radio service bands below 30 MHz.

A number of those who both produce and directly distribute news and information bulletins to the United States Amateur Radio service have already advised Mr. Holly of their intent to attend and take part in this session. Mr. Maia has also agreed to appear before this group

to explain the reasoning and intent behind his proposal, and to answer any questions that will arise.

Mr. Holly has informed me that he has extended a invitation to the American Radio Relay League which regularly operates Amateur Radio station W1AW in bulletin service on the high frequency Amateur Radio bands to send a representative to this meeting. He also informs me that a similar invitation has been extended to a agent of the Commission to take part in this face to face discussion. He and I hope that both will accept.

The remainder of the panel is made up of Mr. Vern Jackson WAØRCR who produces and airs the "Gateway 160 Meter Network Bulletin in Missouri;" Mr. Phil Thomas N8LJA who produces and telephone distributes "Amateur Radio Week" from Ohio; Mr. Stephen Anderman WA3RKB who produces and satellite distributes "This Week in Amateur Radio" via satellite; Miss Shirley Roberts who produces and airs a local news and information service in the Dayton Ohio area and "yours truly" representing Newsline from Los Angeles California.

Since many of those attending this session; as presenters or audience members will be in transit for the next twenty-four to forty-eight hours following the close of the 1995 Dayton Hamvention on April 30, 1995, it will be all but impossible for anyone to properly evaluate the materials presented at this gathering; to form educated opinions on the issues; to write commentary on these issues and to file them before the Commission in a timely manner prior to the current May 4, 1994 commentary cutoff date.

Nature of request:

As one of the organizations that plans to file in-depth comments on RM-8626, based in part on the presentations to be made at the April 30, 1995 Dayton Hamvention Bulletin Services Forum, and on behalf of Mr. Holly and our other forum presenters, we of the Amateur Radio Newsline do hereby request an extension of 14 days in the commentary cutoff date on RM-8626, with a new commentary cutoff date set at midnight on May 18, 1995.

We thank you very much for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*William M. Pasternak*  
William M. Pasternak  
Executive Producer  
Amateur Radio Newsline

CC: Mr. Allanson Holly, KC9RP  
Mr. Frederick O. Maia, W5YI  
Mr. Raymond A. Kowalski, Esq.  
Mr. David Sumner, K1ZZ  
Mr. Christopher D. Imlay, N3AKD