

**Federal Communications Commission**

**DA 96-1279**

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Streamlining Broadcast EEO Rule	)	MM Docket No. 96-16
and Policies, Vacating the EEO	)	
Forfeiture Policy Statement and	)	
Amending Section 1.80 of the	)	
Commission's Rules to Include	)	
EEO Forfeiture Guidelines	)	

**ORDER**

**Adopted: August 9, 1996**

**Released: August 9, 1996**

**Comment Date: August 26, 1996**

**Reply Comment Date: September 25, 1996**

By the Chief, Mass Media Bureau:

1. On February 8, 1996, the Commission adopted an Order and Notice of Proposed Rule Making, 11 FCC Rcd 5154 (1996) (NPRM), which vacated the Commission's EEO Forfeiture Policy Statement and requested comment on proposals for amending the Commission's EEO Rule and policies. Comment and Reply Comment dates were established for April 30, 1996, and May 30, 1996, respectively.

2. On April 12, 1996, twenty organizations, including the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council (hereinafter "Petitioners"), filed a Motion for Extension of Time to file comments in response to the above-captioned proceeding.<sup>1</sup> On April 26, 1996, the Commission granted the Petitioners' request for extension of time.<sup>2</sup> The date for filing comments was extended to July 1, 1996, and the date for filing reply comments was extended to July 31, 1996.

3. On June 20, 1996, Petitioners filed a Motion for Further Extension of Time. Therein, Petitioners requested that we extend further the date for submission of comments in

<sup>1</sup> See National Council of Churches et al., Petition For Reconsideration and Clarification, MM Docket No. 96-16, filed April 11, 1996, at 1.

<sup>2</sup> FCC 96-198 (released: April 26, 1996).

response to the NPRM by ten days, until July 11, 1996.<sup>3</sup> On June 26, 1996, we granted the Petitioners' request for extension of time to file comments and, on our own motion, extended the date for filing reply comments.<sup>4</sup> The date for filing comments was extended to July 11, 1996, and the date for filing reply comments was extended to August 12, 1996.

4. On August 5, 1996, the Petitioners filed a Further Motion for Extension of Time, and for Waiver of Filing Deadline. Therein, Petitioners request that the Commission waive the filing deadline for its Comments and extend the reply comment deadline. In support of their request, Petitioners state that staff shortages, computer failures, and "obtaining consensus" from each of the 20 organizations, have presented difficulties in assembling their filing. They state that they need "approximately two weeks" to complete their research and file comments.

5. It is Commission policy that extensions of time not be routinely granted. See Section 1.46(a) of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. Section 1.46(a). Petitioners have requested and received two extensions of time to file comments in this rulemaking. In addition, the instant motion was filed more than three weeks after the deadline for filing comments in this proceeding. Finally, Petitioners' failure to file comments in a timely manner is entirely attributable to matters under their control. Nevertheless, in the interest of compiling a full record in this rulemaking, we will accept comments through August 26, 1996. Consequently, we shall extend the deadline for filing reply comments to September 25, 1996. Petitioners are hereby advised that we do not contemplate further extensions of time in this proceeding.

6. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED that the Further Motion for Extension of Time, and for Waiver of Filing Deadline IS GRANTED.

7. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that comments will be accepted through **August 26, 1996**, and reply comments will be due on **September 25, 1996**.

8. This action is taken pursuant to authority found in Sections 4(i) and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. Sections 4(i) and 303(r), and Sections 0.204(b), 0.283 and 1.46 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. Sections 0.204(b), 0.283 and 1.46.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

  
Roy J. Stewart  
Chief, Mass Media Bureau

<sup>3</sup> Minority Media and Telecommunications Council et al., Motion For Further Extension of Time, MM Docket No. 96-16, filed June 20, 1996, at 1.

<sup>4</sup> 11 FCC Rcd 7624 (1996).