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June 13, 1997

**VIA HAND DELIVERY**

Mr. William F. Caton  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

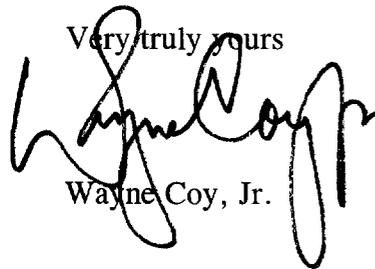
**Re: Petition for Reconsideration  
MM Docket No. 87-268  
Sixth Report and Order**

Dear Mr. Caton

Transmitted herewith, on behalf of Bowling Green State University, licensee of noncommercial educational television station WBGU-TV, Bowling Green, Ohio, are the original and five (5) copies of its Petition for Reconsideration in the above-referenced proceeding.

Should you have any questions with respect to this filing, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours



Wayne Coy, Jr.

Enclosures

DS1/37289-1



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JUN 10 1997

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BEFORE THE

# Federal Communications Commission

In the Matter of )  
)  
Advanced Television Systems )  
and Their Impact upon the )  
Existing Television Broadcast )  
Service )

MM Docket No. 87-268

## PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF SIXTH REPORT AND ORDER

Bowling Green State University, licensee of noncommercial educational television station WBGU-TV, Bowling Green, Ohio, ("WBGU"), by its attorneys, pursuant to Section 1.429 of the Commission's Rules, respectfully requests that the time for interested parties to seek reconsideration of the DTV Table of Allotments adopted in the Sixth Report and Order in the above-captioned proceeding ("Sixth Report") be postponed until sixty days after the Commission publishes OET Bulletin No. 69, in order that meaningful reconsideration of the allotments can be had. In support of its position, WBGU states:

1. WBGU notes from the outset that the staff of the Commission has been able to complete the staggering task of establishing a set of Rules and a Table of Allocations that will enable the entire television industry to have a smooth and efficient transition to the digital world that lies ahead. The rules adopted in the Sixth Report will permit most of the existing television stations to begin serving their existing audiences with digital programming with minimum of disruption to existing service, and, indeed, expand the offerings of those stations to serve the multifaceted needs

of their communities as well. WBGU is also pleased to recognize the flexibility for public stations who face the transition with great trepidation.

2. Having said that, WBGU faces two particular problems the scope and dimensions of which are potentially very troublesome. First, WBGU has been assigned DTV channel 56. This is outside the "core" group of channel, either between Channels 2 and 46 or between 7 and 51. Under the FCC's plan all channels outside the core, whichever way described, will be reclaimed by the Commission at the end of the transition period for other, nonbroadcast, purposes. As WBGU understands it, this will require them to construct two DTV stations at prohibitive expense. Add to this that there is currently an NTSC station on Channel 56 in Detroit with which there is bound to be harmful interference unless by some accident both stations switch on the same day. Finally, WTLW-TV, Lima, Ohio, is assigned DTV Channel 57, even though the transmitters are only 29 miles apart. Thus, even if only for the period when WBGU temporarily makes use of DTV Channel 56, there will be catastrophic adjacent channel interference however long the period turns out to be. A statement by Bill Leutz, the Chief Engineer of the station is attached and more fully explains the electronic interference (and tower-related) issues.

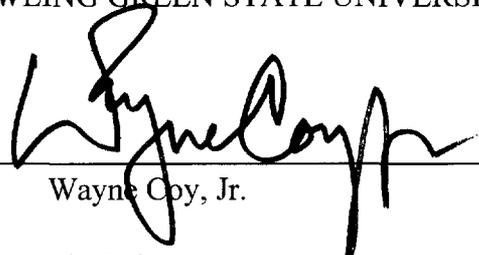
3. As is more completely explained in a letter from Ronald J. Gargas, Director of Broadcast Services for the station, attached, the adjacent channel situation with DTV Channel 57 in Lima, will present an economic as well as the electronic issue. WBGU depends heavily on its support from the Lima community and is the only source of quality pre-school and instructional programming for the children enrolled in the schools of that area. The loss of this area, even if for only a transition period would be truly devastating to the station as well as the viewers in the area.

4. WBGU has conducted a preliminary analysis of the possible channel allocations, and, even though it does not have the FCC interference material available to it, and has concluded that DTV Channel 22 appears to be a far superior choice.

5. Normally, the time for seeking reconsideration of rule making determinations provided in the Commission's Rules is adequate for the presentation to the Commission of the pertinent considerations. In this case, however, that is not the case, because key information is completely within the control of the Commission and has not yet been released for use by interested parties. If OET Bulletin No. 69 were available at this time, WBGU would be able to complete its analysis of the potential for another channel assignment. The period provided in the Rules for seeking reconsideration is adequate when the interested parties are in possession of, or can obtain, all of the information needed for reconsideration. It is not when the Commission has, but does not make available key information.

Respectfully submitted

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

By: 

Wayne Coy, Jr.

Cohn and Marks  
1333 New Hampshire Ave., N. W.  
Suite 600  
Washington, D. C. 20036-12573  
(202) 293-3860

June 13, 1997

Its Attorneys



June 5, 1997

Wayne Coy, Jr.  
Cohn and Marks  
1333 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.  
Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Wayne,

WBGU-TV is very concerned about the current allocation of DTV channel 56 to WBGU-TV. As Bill Leutz, WBGU-TV's chief engineer, points out in the enclosed engineering statement, there are at least 4 potential technical problems with DTV channel 56 for WBGU-TV. The adjacency problem with WTLW-TV, the Lima, Ohio station assigned to Channel 57, is a critical concern for WBGU-TV. It appears our DTV signal would be blocked out in the city of Lima.

Lima, Ohio is WBGU-TV's major viewing and supporting area. The loss of our signal in the Lima market would be devastating to WBGU-TV's service to and income from the Lima viewers and supporters. Lima is the largest source of WBGU-TV's individual and family memberships. Significant corporate underwriting support from the Lima area would also be at risk.

WBGU-TV's early childhood programming provided in a program service known as "Ready to Learn", and which WBGU-TV plans to make part of its DTV programming service, would be virtually eliminated if our DTV signal is not available in Lima. WBGU-TV's planned over-the-air instructional television service for college credit courses, In-Service workshop training for businesses, GED and other educational services, would also be eliminated.

In addition to the loss of viewer and corporate support, and the programming services we plan to make available on the DTV service, the additional cost of promoting and awareness of our presence on two different DTV channels just to maintain our present audience, is a financial burden WBGU-TV could not afford. There will be enough confusion and difficulty for viewers trying to determine where we are on their television dial when we switch over to DTV service. We do not need to compound their confusion by changing DTV channels more than once.

WBGU-TV is also concerned that our DTV Channel 56 will block out WTLW-TV's Channel 57 in the Lima. We have a good relationship with WTLW-TV and would not want to have our signal jeopardize their service to the Lima market.

For all of the above reasons, WBGU-TV requests a reconsideration of our present assigned DTV channel of 56. From the analysis Bill Leutz has conducted on the current channel allocations, it appears DTV channel 22 may be a better choice for WBGU-TV or as a distant second choice, DTV channel 8.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Gargas  
Director of Broadcast Services

Tucker Center For  
Telecommunications

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Engineering Statement from WBGU-TV Chief Engineer, Bill Leutz  
June 5, 1997

These are some of the problems WBGU-TV anticipates with the assignment of DTV channel 56 you can use for our petition for a lower frequency.

- 1) There is an adjacency problem with Lima, Ohio station WTLW-TV. WTLW-TV, presently operating on NTSC channel 44, is assigned DTV channel 57. WTLW-TV and WBGU-TV transmitters are approximately 29 miles apart. WBGU-TV's DTV channel 56 will be blocked out in Lima by WTLW's DTV channel 57 due to the interference of these adjacent channels. According to the 6th Notice For Proposed Rulemaking, paragraph 98, no adjacent digital to digital channel allotments are permitted between 20 and 55 miles.
- 2) There is a potential for interference with NTSC channel 56 in Detroit, Michigan when WBGU-TV starts broadcasting on DTV channel 56.
- 3) The cost of changing frequencies twice (since we are assigned a frequency that will be taken back after the initial transition to DTV), will be devastating in the cost of time, labor and equipment needed to make the channel change.
- 4) There may be a problem with our tower being able to accommodate three antennas at one time when we have to move from DTV channel 56 to a lower DTV channel while still transmitting on our NTSC channel 27.

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Although we do not have all the details of the interference standards the FCC is using for DTV channel assignments, it would appear to us, after analyzing the new tables, channel 22 looks like our first choice and channel 8 as a distant second choice for a DTV channel.



Bill Leutz  
Chief Engineer  
WBGU-TV