

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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In the Matter of }
 }
Advanced Television Systems } MM Docket No. 87-268
And Their Impact Upon the }
Existing Television Broadcast }
Service }
 }

To: The Commission

REPLY TO OPPOSITION TO PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION

On July 22, 1997, South Florida Public Telecommunications, Inc. (SFPT), through its attorneys, filed an opposition to the Petition for Reconsideration (Petition) of the Commissions's Sixth Report and Order in the above-referenced proceeding filed on June 13, 1997 by my company Skinner Broadcasting, Inc. (Skinner). These comments are being filed in response to that opposition.

1. Skinner is the licensee of LPTV W27AQ, Fort Lauderdale, Florida and operates on Channel 27. SFPT is the licensee of public television station WXEL-TV, West Palm Beach, Florida and the Commission, in the Sixth Report and Order, has assigned DTV Channel 27 to SFPT.

2. In its opposition, SFPT merely recites existing rules pertaining to the "secondary status" of LPTV and TV translator stations. SFPT claims that Skinner "was well aware of the secondary status of its facility from its inception and may not now complain that it is being treated unfairly because of a displacement which is necessary to accomodate an area full service licensee". Indeed, we were aware of the definition and more importantly the ramifications and possible displacement possibilities that existed in 1980, when we applied for the W27AQ authorization; however, and this point was totally ignored by SFPT, the possibilities for displacement were almost nil in 1980, when digital television (DTV) was not even invented or in the planning stages. Thus, Skinner could not have been aware that the FCC would attempt to incorporate a plan that would call for doubling the spectrum needed by full service television stations for the creation of a new service called digital television. Indeed, in 1980, there was little threat of a LPTV or TV translator being displaced by a full service station, since it was rare that a full service station would move its antenna site making a short-

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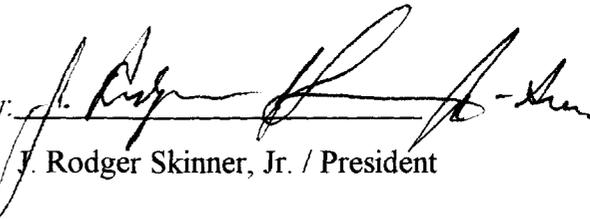
space to a LPTV or TV translator. Even in the rare instances where that occurred, there was usually ample spectrum to allow the LPTV or TV translator station to move to a new channel to cure the short space and FCC rules allowed filing for a new channel outside of a "filing window" to accomodate just this type of situation. Now with the rules being changed in mid-stream, it is difficult and in some cases, like ours, impossible to find another channel on which to locate the displaced LPTV or TV translator station.

3. SFPT's opposition does not attempt to address the important issues surrounding this matter, offers no possible solutions, is totally without merit and should be summarily dismissed.

4. The Commission must take steps to protect LPTV and TV translator stations in a manner consistent with the Communications Act(Act) of 1934 as amended, specifically Section 307(b) of the Act, with suggestions put forward in our Petition for Reconsideration of the Sixth Report and Order.

Respectfully submitted,

SKINNER BROADCASTING, INC.

By: 
J. Rodger Skinner, Jr. / President

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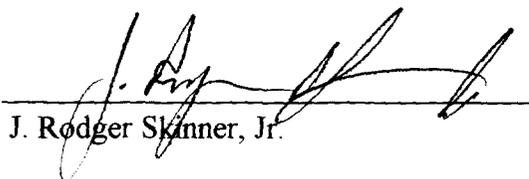
(954) 340-3110

Date: August 20, 1997

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, J. Rodger Skinner, Jr., President of Skinner Broadcasting, Inc., do hereby certify that I have on this 20th day of August 1997, sent by First Class United States mail, postage prepaid, copies of the foregoing **REPLY TO OPPOSITION TO PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION** to the following:

Malcolm G. Stevenson
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J. Rodger Skinner, Jr.