

BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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In re:

Amendment of Section 73.622)
Table of Allotments DTV)
Broadcast Stations)
Springfield, Illinois)

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MM Docket No.

To: Chief, Allocations Branch
Policy and Rules Division

PETITION FOR RULEMAKING

West Central Illinois Educational Telecommunications Corporation (known as "CONVOCOM"), by its counsel and pursuant to Section 1.420 of the Commission's Rules, hereby requests that the Commission institute a rulemaking proceeding to amend Section 73.622 of its Rules to allot Channel *36 as a DTV channel at Springfield, Illinois, and to reserve it for noncommercial educational use. Such an allotment would serve the public interest by granting the capital city of Illinois its first noncommercial educational DTV channel.^{1/} CONVOCOM commits to apply for DTV Channel *36, if allotted.

Background

CONVOCOM is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, created in response to recommendations adopted by the Illinois Board of Higher Education in support of educational

^{1/} The FCC allotted three commercial DTV channels at Springfield, Illinois.

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television services for the State of Illinois. To fulfill its educational television mandate, CONVOCOM operates a three-station noncommercial educational television network in west central Illinois, a substantial portion of which is otherwise unserved by public television.^{2/} CONVOCOM also operates TV translator station W65BV at Springfield, Illinois, which rebroadcasts Station WSEC(TV) and provides the state capital its only over-the-air public television service. The TV translator station in Springfield operates on an allotted NTSC reserved frequency, Channel *65. Well over two years ago, CONVOCOM filed an application with the FCC to convert the facility to a full service NTSC station on Channel *65.^{3/} However, due to the reallocation of Channels 60-69, CONVOCOM does not anticipate that full service NTSC public television can be activated on that channel, and no other NTSC channel appears to be available.

In support of this petition, CONVOCOM submits the following:

The Allotment of DTV Channel *36 to Springfield, Illinois Satisfies Technical and Regulatory Requirements

The present proposal satisfies the minimum geographic spacing requirements with regard to all other DTV stations, DTV allotments, and analog TV stations. See Engineering Statement, at 1. The reference coordinates for the proposed site are N. 39°-34'-56"; W. 89°-38'-58".

^{2/} CONVOCOM is the licensee of the following noncommercial educational television stations: WMEC(TV), Macomb, WQEC(TV), Quincy, and WSEC(TV), Jacksonville, all Illinois.

^{3/} This application to construct a full service station on Channel *65 was filed on January 29, 1996. The application remains pending before the Commission, but no file number has been assigned.

In addition, as the attached engineering exhibit demonstrates, this request is in compliance with the community coverage requirements of Section 73.625(a).

Accordingly, the allotment of DTV Channel *36 at Springfield complies with the requirements of Section 73.623 of the Commission's Rules.

Allotment of DTV Channel *36 to Springfield, Illinois, Would Provide Springfield with a Valuable Source of Noncommercial Educational Programming.

At present, only one noncommercial educational television station serves Springfield, Illinois. That station is TV translator Station W65BV, licensed to petitioner. However, the FCC decision in the *Report in Order*, in ET Docket No. 97-157 (released January 6, 1998) to reallocate Channels 60-69 for other services will likely result in CONVOCOM's translator station on Channel *65 being forced off the air, resulting in the termination of all over-the-air public television service in the state's capital city. No other NTSC channel appears to be available. Accordingly, allotment of DTV Channel *36 to Springfield would provide the city with its only noncommercial educational television facility.

The Commission recognizes the value of local programming, especially in noncommercial, educational broadcasting. See, e.g., Educational TV Assignment at Terre Haute, Indiana, 19 RR 2d 1850, 1853 (1970) ("We have repeatedly announced our policy to forward local programming in the broadcast services. Local programming is essential particularly in the field of education in that local programming can most effectively deal with the specific problems, needs, and interests in the community being served.").

DTV Channel *36 at Springfield, Illinois, Should Be Reserved for Noncommercial, Educational Use.

The purpose of this petition is to allot a channel, for which CONVOCOM intends to apply, to provide Springfield with its first noncommercial educational DTV channel. Reservation of Channel *36 for noncommercial educational use would make possible the continued provision of noncommercial and educational programs in the area.

CONCLUSION

For all of these reasons, CONVOCOM requests that the Commission institute a rulemaking proceeding to amend Section 73.622 of its Rules to allot DTV Channel *36 to Springfield, Illinois, and to reserve it for noncommercial educational use.

Respectfully submitted,

WEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS EDUCATIONAL
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

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August 26, 1998

EXHIBIT A
(DECLARATION)

WMEC₂₂

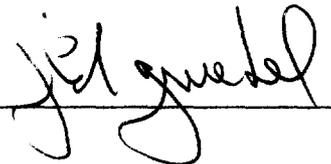
WQEC₂₇

WSEC^{14/65}

TELEVISION WORTH WATCHING

Declaration Under Penalty of Perjury

I, Jerold Gruebel, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing facts set forth in this Petition for Rulemaking to amend Section 73.622 of the Commission's Rules are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

By: 

Title: President

Date: August 25, 1998

JG:mjb



EXHIBIT B
(ENGINEERING EXHIBIT)



ENGINEERING STATEMENT

This Engineering Statement and the attached figure have been prepared by B. Benjamin Evans, P.E. of Evans Associates, Consulting Communications Engineers in Thiensville, Wisconsin, on behalf of West Central Illinois Educational Telecommunications Corporation ("CONVOCOM"). This exhibit supports a petition by CONVOCOM requesting modification of the DTV Table of Allotments to specify non-commercial DTV Channel 36 at Springfield, Illinois.

Evans Associates has been retained by CONVOCOM, the petitioner, to prepare the engineering portion of a petition for rule making to assign DTV Channel 36 to Springfield, Illinois, and to reserve that channel for non-commercial use. Channel 65 is assigned to Springfield as a non-commercial NTSC channel¹; however, it is outside the FCC-designated "core spectrum." The instant DTV channel, if assigned, would provide the city of Springfield with its only local non-commercial broadcast TV service.

As a result of a channel search conducted by this engineer, it has been determined that UHF Channel 36 may be assigned to Springfield, Illinois as a DTV assignment, without conflicting with any existing NTSC or DTV assignments, or proposed assignments that are known by this engineer. Therefore, it is proposed that Section 73.622(b) of the FCC Rules and Regulations be amended in the following manner:

<u>Community</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Springfield, Illinois	42, 44, 53	*36, 42, 44, 53

It is the petitioner's intention to apply for a construction permit to operate on the DTV channel proposed herein, if it is assigned.

The reference point coordinates of Springfield are:

N. 39°-48'-00"; W. 89°-38'-54"

¹ CONVOCOM currently operates a TV translator on Channel 65, W65BV, in Springfield, and also has an FCC application pending to operate on Channel 65 as a full service broadcast station.



*Engineering Statement - Page 2
DTV Assignment, Springfield, IL*

The assignment of DTV Channel 36 to Springfield will meet all minimum distance separation requirements under the FCC Rules if the transmitter site is located at least 24.2 kilometers south of Springfield

The transmitter site coordinates assumed for the purpose of this petition for rule making are:

N. 39°-34'-56"; W 89°-38'-58"

From this location, compliance with the community of license coverage requirement (41 dBu contour) would be assured, even at modest transmitting facilities.

In view of the above, it is believed that the assignment of DTV Channel *36 to Springfield, Illinois would be in the public interest.

The foregoing statement and attached figure are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

B. Benjamin Evans, P.E.

August 17, 1998

ATTACHED FIGURE:

Figure 1 - - - - - DTV Channel Spacing Study - Channel 36, Springfield, IL

DTV CHANNEL SPACING STUDY

Channel 36, Springfield, Illinois

Job title: Springfield
 Proposed latitude: N 39 34 56.00
 Proposed longitude: W 89 38 58.00
 Database file name: C:\fccdata\Tv980814.edx
 Proposed zone: 1
 A * next to a distance result indicates the proposed location
 is inside the exclusion range for a DTV adjacent channel

Proposed channel: 36

CH	Call	Record	City	ST	Z	Status	Bear.	Dist.	Reqd. Dist.	Result
36	WTWO_DT	4960	TERRE HAUTE	IN	1	ALLOC	100.3	198.1	196.3	1.8
21o	ALLOTM	5487	VANDALIA	IL	1		145.2	83.9	80.5	3.4
43o	WYZZTV	5506	BLOOMINGTON	IL	1	LIC	18.5	124.7	80.5	44.2
43o	WYZZTV	5507	BLOOMINGTON	IL	1	CP	18.5	124.7	80.5	44.2
40-	ALLOTM	5781	ST. LOUIS	MO	2		203.5	116.8	80.5	36.3
40-	ALLOTM	5782	ST. LOUIS	MO	2	DEL	203.5	116.8	80.5	36.3
40-	NEW	5783	ST. LOUIS	MO	2	APP	205.8	129.7	80.5	49.2
35	KSDK_DT	5809	ST. LOUIS	MO	2	ALLOC	207.8	127.1	110.0	17.1
22+	WMEC	5817	MACOMB	IL	1	LIC	317.2	128.8	80.5	48.3
22+	WMEC	5818	MACOMB	IL	1	CP	314.9	129.5	80.5	49.0
22+	WMEC	5819	MACOMB	IL	1	APP	334.4	80.6	80.5	0.1
36+	KQCT	5837	DAVENPORT	IA	2	LIC	340.4	230.4	217.3	13.1
36+	KQCT	5838	DAVENPORT	IA	2	APP	342.5	220.7	217.3	3.4
35+	ALLOTM	5997	BOWLING GREEN	MO	2		259.2	136.1	106.0	30.1
36-	ALLOTM	6286	JEFFERSON CITY	MO	2		243.6	245.3	217.3	28.0
36-	NEW	6287	JEFFERSON CITY	MO	2	APP	251.9	238.5	217.3	21.2
36	KOMU_DT	6310	COLUMBIA	MO	2	ALLOC	251.9	238.5	196.3	42.2

***** End of channel 36 study *****