

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington D.C.

IN RE:)	
)	
REVITALIZATION)	MB Docket No. 13-249
OF AM RADIO SERVICE)	
)	

COMMENTS OF HUDSON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY¹

I. INTRODUCTION

On October 31, 2013, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making in the above-captioned proceeding.² In the *Revitalization NPRM* proceeding, the Commission sought comment on a number of proposals intended to enhance AM broadcast service and ease regulatory burdens on AM broadcasters. Building on the record it received in the proceeding, two years later, the Commission issued a First Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making, and Notice of Inquiry.³ Between these two actions of the Commission, Hudson County filed a Petition for Reconsideration on March 20, 2014 in response to the Commission’s denial of the County’s request to increase the power of its Travelers’ Information Station

¹In 1609, Captain Henry Hudson, aboard the Half Moon sailed up the river that would later be named for him and made the first European claim for the area that in 1840, would be founded and named for him: Hudson County. Today, the County is home to just under 700,000 residents within its sixty-two (62) square mile boundary, of which more than forty percent (40%) is water. The County lies between the Hackensack and Hudson Rivers and west of New York City. Hudson County is the smallest yet most densely populated county in New Jersey. Jersey City is the County’s largest city and the county seat.

² *Revitalization of the AM Radio Service, Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, 28 FCC Rcd 15221 (2013) (“*Revitalization NPRM*”).

³ *Revitalization of the AM Radio Service, First Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making, and Notice of Inquiry*, 30 FCC Rcd 12145 (2015) (“*Revitalization FNPRM*”).

WQFG689.⁴ The County has also conducted additional studies⁵ on the issues of interference and shared those with the Commission to document that the County's operation would not interfere with the recently modified facilities (BL-20150827ABE) of auction winner Alexander Broadcasting for AM station WRCR to operate on 1700 kHz at Ramapo, New York.⁶

II. COUNTY'S MESSAGE(S)

Abraham Antun, Hudson County's Administrator, through counsel, on behalf of the County files these brief comments to reassert the insights previously shared by the County in this docket and to call the Commission's attention to four specific points.

1. The County seeks to express general support of the Commission's *Revitalization FNPRM*. Moreover, the County offers specific support for the *Revitalization FNPRM's* narrowing AM protection to the 2 mV/m contour. This action was an idea first suggested by the County in support of its Petition for Reconsideration.⁷ For reasons made more clear below, the County encourages the Commission to adopt the modifications proposed in the *Revitalization FNPRM* in a final order as updating the rule will have real life and positive implications for communities such as Hudson County.

2. The County requests that Section 90.242(a) of the FCC Rules be modified to reflect the proposed changes to Part 73 outlined in the *Revitalization FNPRM*. By taking such an

⁴The County requested that the Commission reconsider its dismissal of the County's application and grant the waivers requested in the Reconsideration Petition.

⁵ *In re Hudson County, New Jersey Application for Modification of Travelers' Information Station WQFG689 and Request for Waiver of Section 90.242 of the Commission's Rules*, File No. 0005809584, Further Supplement to Petition for Reconsideration of Hudson County, New Jersey (filed Feb. 12, 2015), Exhibit A.

⁶ The modified WRCR facilities would broadcast on 1700 kHz from the site on which WRCR presently operates at 1300 kHz.

⁷ See, *In re Revitalization of the AM Radio Service*, MB Docket 13-249, Letter of December 4, 2015 from Gerard Lavery Lederer to Marlene Dortch (filed Dec. 14, 2015) ("Ex Parte").

action, the Commission would not only insure that these changes are unambiguous, it would also prevent any possible inconsistencies between the requirements of Part 73 and Part 90.

3. The County files these comments to remind the Commission that the County's Petition for Reconsideration⁸ was voluntarily set aside by the County pending the issuance of the Report and Order in the *Revitalization FNPRM* in the instant matter.⁹ The County urges the Commission to complete its work on the proposed rules as such an action will further demonstrate the lack of interference that would arise should the County's Petition be granted. In the *Revitalization FNPRM* the Commission proposes to change the protected daytime groundwave contour of all AM stations except Class A stations from 0.5 mV/m to 2 mV/m in all areas, not just urbanized areas. The *Revitalization FNPRM* would also amend the adjacent channel protection ratio from 6 dB back to 0 dB.¹⁰ If adopted, the proposal would remove the one potential obstacle to the proposed power increase that Hudson County seeks for its TIS, WQFG689, the request outlined in the referenced County Petition.

4. Finally, the County files these Comments to remind the Commission that the County's voluntary setting aside of its Petition was taken in reliance of the Commission staff's representations about the availability of temporary authority to increase the power of the TIS in the event of an emergency. As reflected in the County's description found in footnote 1, the County is acting in a prudent manner to ensure that it has every possible means to communicate not only with its permanent residents in the State of New Jersey's most densely populated county, but also the tens of millions of travelers that transit the community on an annual basis.

⁸ Petition for Reconsideration of Hudson County, NJ (File No.0005809584)

⁹) See, *Ex Parte*.

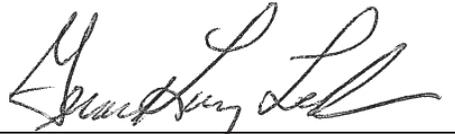
¹⁰ *Revitalization FNPRM*, ¶¶ 63-65.

III. CONCLUSION

For all these reasons, the County asks that the FCC complete its work on the *Revitalization FNPRM*, reconsider its dismissal of the County's application and grant the waivers requested in the County's Reconsideration Petition.

Respectfully submitted,

HUDSON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerard Lavery Lederer", written over a horizontal line.

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March 15, 2016
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