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The FCC is considering requiring the surrender of either the original AM station or the paired expanded band station. The original plan was to permit AM expanded band stations achieve a minimum concentration of radios which would tune the expanded band. This was estimated to require five years, and truly the goal of an adequate inventory of radios was achieved. What was not achieved was any interference reduction. The original premise of the plan was flawed, as deleting the few dozens of original station had a negligible effect on interstation interference. Noise levels became the limiting factor for AM stations, not interstation interference. For various reasons, many of the licensees did not turn in one of the authorizations.

Several decades have gone by, and the stations that have survived have each taken on a life of their own. Several of them are licensed to communities distant from their "twin". Many of the facilities are serving minority communities, and the deletion of these stations would cause a hardship.

Two of the facilities are allocated to communities which were mandated first service by Congress. Deleting the station remaining licensed to that community would operate directly adverse to the Congressional mandate.

Mr Schober proposes that all original and expanded band stations be continued, and separated.

If expanded band stations were given a financial break in regulatory fees, or other considerations, Mr Schober proposes that licensees file a minor change application to separate the stations, and pay any regulatory fees that would have been due that were not collected because the stations were paired.

This will assure that 1) The stations are providing value to the licensee and the community. and 2) The Federal Government will not be providing a "giveaway" to any parties.