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November 1, 1999

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

VIA COURIER

Magalie Roman Salas, Esquire
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Salas:

On behalf of KRTV Communications, Inc., licensee of KRTV(TV), Great Falls, Montana, there are transmitted herewith an original and five copies of its *Petition for Rule Making* proposing a substitution of channel 7 for channel 44 as the station's paired DTV allocation.

If any additional information is needed in connection with this matter, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott S. Patrick

Enclosure

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

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Amendment of Section 73.622(b)	)	MM Docket No. _____
Table of Allotments,	)	RM-_____
Digital Television Broadcast Stations	)	
(Great Falls, Montana)	)	
	)	

To: Chief, Allocations Branch
Policy and Rules Division
Mass Media Bureau

PETITION FOR RULE MAKING
TO AMEND THE DTV TABLE OF ALLOTMENTS

KRTV Communications, Inc. ("KRTV Communications"), licensee of KRTV(TV), Great Falls, Montana, by its attorneys and pursuant to Sections 1.401 and 73.622(a) of the Commission's Rules (47 C.F.R. §§1.401 and 73.622(a)), hereby respectfully petitions the Commission to institute a rulemaking to amend Section 73.622(b), the DTV Table of Allotments, by substituting channel 7 as the station's paired DTV allocation for the transition period in lieu of channel 44, as originally allotted. As set forth in greater detail in the attached Engineering Statement, the proposed substitution would permit KRTV Communications to operate with a paired VHF DTV channel.

KRTV(TV) serves the Great Falls, Montana DMA, which is ranked 185th. The Commission has adopted a number of rules and policies to assist smaller market stations in recognition of the special burden that the implementation of digital television places on them –

the most prominent being the staggered DTV construction schedule.[1] Likewise, the Commission has promised to provide broadcasters with flexibility in developing alternate allotment proposals.[2]

KRTV Communications can reduce the costs of building-out and operating its DTV station by transmitting on a VHF DTV channel. The operation on the VHF channel would improve signal coverage for viewers in the Great Falls, Montana DMA. The public interest would be served by the more efficient use of the broadcast spectrum.

As demonstrated in the Engineering Statement, KRTV-DT's proposed service area encompasses the community of license as required,[3] and the proposed amendment conforms with the Commission's *de minimis* interference standard.[4]

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, KRTV Communications respectfully requests that the Commission initiate a rule making proceeding to amend Section 73.622(b) of its Rules to substitute channel 7 for channel 44 for use by KRTV-DT at the allotted reference point in Great Falls, Montana. The amendment would serve the public interest because the changes

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[1] Advanced Television Systems and Their Impact Upon the Existing Television Broadcast Service, *Fifth Report and Order*, MM Docket 87-268, 12 FCC Rcd 12809, ¶78 (1997).

[2] Advanced Television Systems and Their Impact Upon the Existing Television Broadcast Service, *Sixth Report and Order*, MM Docket 87-268, 12 FCC Rcd 14588, ¶172 (1997).

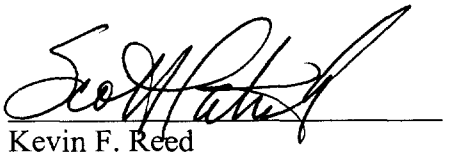
[3] 47 C.F.R. §73.623(c)(1).

[4] 47 C.F.R. §73.623(c)(2).

proposed herein will enable KRTV-DT to provide better coverage to its service area, resulting in a more efficient use of the broadcast spectrum.

Respectfully Submitted,

KRTV COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

By: 

Kevin F. Reed
Scott S. Patrick

Its Attorneys

Dow, Lohnes & Albertson, PLLC
1200 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036-6802
202-776-2000

Dated: November 1, 1999

ATTACHMENT

Engineering Statement

ENGINEERING STATEMENT
PETITION FOR RULE MAKING
SECTION 73.622 OF THE FCC RULES
TO CHANGE DTV CHANNEL
ON BEHALF OF
KRTV COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
KRTV-DT, GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

OCTOBER 1999

COHEN, DIPPELL AND EVERIST, P.C.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
RADIO AND TELEVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

COHEN, DIPPELL AND EVERIST, P. C.

City of Washington)
) ss
District of Columbia)

Donald G. Everist, being duly sworn upon his oath, deposes and states that:

He is a graduate electrical engineer, a Registered Professional Engineer in the District of Columbia, and is President of Cohen, Dippell and Everist, P.C., Consulting Engineers, Radio - Television, with offices at 1300 L Street, N.W., Suite 1100, Washington, D.C. 20005;

That his qualifications are a matter of record in the Federal Communications Commission;

That the attached engineering report was prepared by him or under his supervision and direction and

That the facts stated herein are true of his own knowledge, except such facts as are stated to be on information and belief, and as to such facts he believes them to be true.

Donald G. Everist
District of Columbia
Professional Engineer
Registration No. 5714

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of October, 1999.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 2/28/2003

This engineering statement has been prepared on behalf of KRTV Communications, Inc., licensee of Television Station KRTV(TV), Great Falls, Montana is assigned NTSC Channel 3. It is proposed to change the current digital television channel allotment contained in Section 73.622 of the FCC Rules from UHF Channel 44 to VHF Channel 7 at the maximum VHF DT non-directional power of 160 kW. The proposed operation will serve the entire community of license.

An allocation study has been performed of the impact of this proposal on other authorized NTSC stations, DTV stations contained in Table B and other proposed DTV allotment changes. This analysis has been performed using the Federal Communications Commission OET Bulletin 69 dated July 2, 1997 and the FCC supplemental processing guidelines dated August 1998. The analysis was performed by using the FCC Longley-Rice ("FLR") model adapted for use for an INTEL computer. The results of this adapted FLR program has been compared to other known FCC studies and have been found to give comparable results.

Existing DTV Table of Allotments, Page B-33[1]

DTV Channel	Effective Radiated Power (kW)	Height Above Average Terrain (meters)
44	1000 Existing Site	180
	Proposed DTV Facilities	
7	160 Existing Site	180

[1]In the Matter of Advanced Television Systems and Their Impact Upon the Existing Television Broadcast Service", MM Docket No. 87-268, Memorandum Opinion and Order on Reconsideration of the Sixth Report and Order (FCC 98-24), 2/12/98.

As shown in Table1, modifying the DTV or allotment for KRTV-DT would not result in additional interference in excess of that permitted by the FCC's Rules. Further, an examination of co-channel low power television and translator stations within 75 km has been performed. No other low power or translator station is found. Therefore, it is believed that the request for DTV channel will be consistent with the FCC Rules.

INTERFERENCE SUMMARY
KRTV-DT, CHANNEL 7, GREAT FALLS, MONTANA
OCTOBER 1999

Interference Analysis

A study of predicted interference by the proposed KRTV-DT service has been performed using a version of the Longley-Rice program as described in OET Bulletin No. 69 (July 2, 1997) and the Public Notice, "Additional Application Processing Guidelines for Digital Television (DTV)" (August 1998). The FCC's FORTRAN-77 code was modified only to the extent necessary (primarily input/output handling) for the program to run on a Windows98/Intel platform. Comparison of service/interference areas and populations indicates that this model closely matches the FCC's evaluation program. Best efforts have been made to use data and calculations identical to the FCC's program. Any slight differences are attributable to compiler, operating system and/or processor characteristics. The effect of any variance in calculated population values versus the FCC's program is minimized when differencing a given model's results, e.g., new interference equals total interference less baseline interference. The effect is further reduced for ratios of calculated population values, e.g., incremental population affected as a percent of total population served. The model employs the Longley-Rice propagation methodology and evaluates in grid cells of approximately 4 km^2 using 3-second terrain data sampled approximately every 0.1 km at one degree azimuth intervals with 1990 census centroids.

Baseline KRTV-DT: Allotment, Channel 44, 1000 kW, 180 M HAAT
N 47°32' 09", W 111° 17' 02"
(NAD-27)

Proposed Change: Channel 7, 160 kW, 180 M HAAT
N 47°32' 09", W 111°17' 02"
(NAD-27)

Affected Station	Distance/Bearing	Interference (% of Population Served) Baseline	New
KCTZ(TV), Ch. 7, Bozeman, MT 43.7 kW, 210 meters AMSL	209.5 km/ 171.1°	0.0	0.2

Studied with an omni-directional pattern for worst-case scenario.