

Federal Communications Commission

DA 00-2677

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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In the Matter of
Amendment of Section 73.622(b),
Table of Allotments,
Digital Television Broadcast Stations.
(Weston, West Virginia)
MM Docket No. 00-242
RM-9998

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

Adopted: November 30, 2000

Released: December 1, 2000

Comment Date: January 22, 2001
Reply Comment Date: February 6, 2001

By the Chief, Video Services Division:

1. The Commission has before it a petition for rule making filed by Withers Broadcasting Company of West Virginia ("Withers"), licensee of station WDTV(TV), NTSC channel 5, Weston, West Virginia. Withers request the substitution of DTV channel 6 for station WDTV(TV)'s assigned DTV channel 58.

2. In support of its proposal, Withers states that the National Radio Astronomy Observatory ("NRAO") has filed an objection to Withers' "checklist" application for its proposed digital facilities on Channel 58. Withers notes that NRAO would agree to channel 58 if Withers modified its proposal to reduce the effective radiated power of station WDTV(TV) in the direction of the Green Bank Observatory. However, Withers contends that operation on DTV channel 6 should eliminate the NRAO's concern. Withers also states that station WDTV(TV)'s allotment is the outside the "core" digital spectrum. Withers argues that rather than expend considerable resources in both (i) challenging the NRAO's objection, and (ii) locating a core channel and modifying the station's facilities in the future, the instant proposal could resolve these considerations.

3. We believe petitioner's proposal warrants consideration. DTV Channel 6 can be substituted for DTV Channel 58 at Weston, West Virginia, as proposed, in compliance with the principle community coverage requirements of Section 73.625(a) at coordinates (39-04-29 N. and 80-25-28 W.). Pursuant to Section 73.623(f), Withers has submitted an engineering study demonstrating that no interference would be caused to existing FM radio stations on FM channels

1 Since Weston, West Virginia, is located within the protected areas of the NRAO's "Quiet Zone" at Green Bank, West Virginia, the licensee of station WDTV-DT will be required to comply with the notification requirement of Section 73.1030 of the Commission's Rules.

Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to rule making proceedings to amend the TV Table of Allotments, Section 73.606(b) and 73.622(b) of the Commission's Rules. See Certification That Sections 603 and 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act Do Not Apply to Rule Making to Amend Sections 73.202(b), 73.504 and 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules, 46 FR 11549, February 9, 1981. The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 would also not apply to rule making proceedings to amend the DTV Table of Allotments, Section 73.622(b) of the Commission's Rules.

8. For further information concerning this proceeding, contact Pam Blumenthal, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-1600. For purposes of this restricted notice and comment rule making proceeding, members of the public are advised that no ex parte presentations are permitted from the time the Commission adopts a Notice of Proposed Rule Making until the proceeding has been decided and such decision is no longer subject to reconsideration by the Commission or review by any court. An ex parte presentation is not prohibited if specifically requested by the Commission or staff for the clarification or adduction of evidence or resolution of issues in the proceeding. However, any new written information elicited from such a request or a summary of any new oral information shall be served by the person making the presentation upon the other parties to the proceeding unless the Commission specifically waives this service requirement. Any comment which has not been served on the petitioner constitutes an ex parte presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding. Any reply comment which has not been served on the person(s) who filed the comment, to which the reply is directed, constitutes an ex parte presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Barbara A. Kreisman
Chief, Video Services Division
Mass Media Bureau

Attachment: Appendix

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APPENDIX

1. Pursuant to authority found in Sections 4(i), 5(c)(1), 303(g) and (r), and 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Sections 0.61, 0.204(b) and 0.283 of the Commission's Rules, IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND the DTV Table of Allotments, Section 73.622(b) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, as set forth in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making to which this Appendix is attached.

2. Showings Required. Comments are invited on the proposal(s) discussed in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making to which this Appendix is attached. Proponent(s) will be expected to answer whatever questions are presented in initial comments. The proponent of a proposed allotment is also expected to file comments even if it only resubmits or incorporates by reference its former pleadings. It should also restate its present intention to apply for the channel if it is allotted and, if authorized, to build a station promptly. Failure to file may lead to denial of the request.

3. Cut-off protection. The following procedures will govern the consideration of filings in this proceeding.

(a) Counterproposals advanced in this proceeding itself will be considered, if advanced in initial comments, so that parties may comment on them in reply comments. They will not be considered if advanced in reply comments. (See Section 1.420(d) of the Commission's Rules).

(b) With respect to petitions for rule making which conflict with the proposals in this Notice, they will be considered as comments in the proceeding, and Public Notice to this effect will be given as long as they are filed before the date for filing initial comments herein. If they are filed later than that, they will not be considered in connection with the decision in this docket.

(c) The filing of a counterproposal may lead the Commission to allot a different channel than was requested for any of the communities involved.

4. Comments and Reply Comments; Service. Pursuant to applicable procedures set out in Sections 1.415 and 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates set forth in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making to which this Appendix is attached. All submissions by parties to this proceeding or by persons acting on behalf of such parties must be made in written comments, reply comments, or other appropriate pleadings. Comments shall be served on the petitioner by the person filing the comments. Reply comments shall be served on the person(s) who filed comments to which the reply is directed. Such comments and reply comments shall be accompanied by a certificate of service. (See Section 1.420(a), (b) and (c) of the Commission's Rules.) Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554.

5. Number of Copies. In accordance with the provisions of Section 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, an original and four copies of all comments, reply comments,

pleadings, briefs, or other documents shall be furnished the Commission.

6. Public Inspection of Filings. All filings made in this proceeding will be available for examination by interested parties during regular business hours in the Commission's Reference Center (Room CY-A257) at its headquarters, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C.