

LIFE TECH ROOM

Federal Communications Commission

DA 01-861

2001 APR 11 P 4:51

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

In the Matter of 3-J)
)
)
Amendment of Section 73.606(b),) MM Docket No. 01-82
Table of Allotments,) RM-10068
Television Broadcast Stations.)
(Bend, Oregon))
)
)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING**Adopted: April 6, 2001****Released: April 9, 2001**

Comment Date: May 31, 2001

Reply Comment Date: June 15, 2001

By the Chief, Video Services Division:

1. The Commission has before it an amended petition for rule making¹ filed by 3-J Broadcasting Company ("3-J"), requesting the allotment of channel 51 to Bend, Oregon, as the community's second local commercial television service.² 3-J states it intention to apply for channel 51 at Bend, if allotted.

2. In support of its proposal, 3-J states that channel 51 would provide the community of Bend with its second local commercial channel. 3-J asserts that channel 51 may be allotted to Bend, in lieu of channel 38, fully protecting all digital allotments and low power stations that

¹ 3-J originally filed on June 27, 1994, a petition for rule making requesting the allotment of channel 38 to Bend, Oregon and a request for a waiver of the Freeze Order that was issued in connection with the Commission's rule making concerning advanced television technologies. Subsequently, 3-J amended its petition for rule making to invoke the provisions outlined in the Commission's Public Notice (*Public Notice*) released on November 22, 1999, DA 99-2605. In that *Public Notice* the Commission announced a window filing opportunity to allow persons with certain pending requests for new analog (NTSC) television stations to modify their requests to eliminate technical conflicts with digital television (DTV) stations and to move from channels 60 through 69. 3-J states that its original proposal would not protect the digital operation of KDRV in Medford, Oregon, nor would it protect two low power stations, K23CU and KFXO-LP. Thus, 3-J amended its original proposal to specify channel 51 in lieu of channel 38.

² On July 17, 2000, Sonoma Media Corporation filed a petition for rule making requesting the substitution of channel 51 for channel 38 at Bend, Oregon. Sonoma states that it is the sole applicant for channel 38 at Bend. We find Sonoma's petition for rule making unacceptable for consideration. Sonoma's claim of being the sole applicant for channel 38 is inaccurate since there is no channel 38 allotment at Bend, Oregon, and thus no opportunity for any party to file an application. Since Sonoma has no legitimate pending request before the Commission, Sonoma is not eligible to file a petition for rule making to allot channel 51 at Bend since it does not conform with any of the categories defined in the Commission's *Public Notice*.

filed Statements of Eligibility.

3. We believe 3-J's proposal warrants consideration since the allotment of channel 51 to Bend would provide the community with its second local commercial TV service. A staff engineering analysis indicates that channel 51 can be allotted to Bend with a zero offset consistent with the criteria set forth in the Commission's *Public Notice* for evaluating requests to add a new NTSC channel.³ The coordinates for channel 51 at Bend are North Latitude 44-03-30 and West Longitude 121-18-30. Pursuant to the Commission's policy as noted in its *Public Notice*, we will not accept competing expressions of interest in the use of television channel 51 at Bend.⁴

4. Accordingly, we seek comments on the proposed amendment of the TV Table of Allotments, Section 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules, for the community listed below, to read as follows:

<u>City</u>	<u>Channel No.</u>	
	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Bend, Oregon	*3+, *15, 21+	*3+, *15, 21+, 51

5. The Commission's authority to institute rule making proceedings, showings required, cut-off procedures, and filing requirements are contained in the attached Appendix and are incorporated by reference herein. In particular, we note that a showing of continuing interest is required by paragraph 2 of the Appendix before a channel will be allotted.

6. Interested parties may file comments on or before May 31, 2001, and reply comments on or before June 15, 2001, and are advised to read the Appendix for the proper procedures. Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554. Additionally, a copy of such comments should be served on the petitioner, or its counsel or consultant, as follows:

³ The Commission stated in its *Public Notice* that amendments to existing petitions to add a new NTSC channel allotment must meet the minimum distance separations to DTV stations as provided in Section 73.623(d).

⁴ New and amended rulemaking petitions submitted during the noted window filing opportunity will be subject to the Commission's normal notice and comment procedures. However, the Commission indicated in the *Sixth Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, 11 FCC Rcd 10968 (1996), that new proposals for additional NTSC channel allotments will not be accepted. Furthermore, new parties may not counterproposal a new NTSC allotment in the same or nearby communities. The opportunity for filing counterproposals is limited to those parties with existing petitions and applications that are the subject of the announced filing window indicated in the Commission's *Public Notice*.

Gene A. Bechtel
Bechtel & Cole
Suite 250
1901 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(Counsel for 3-J Broadcasting Company)

7. The Commission has determined that the relevant provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to rule making proceedings to amend the TV Table of Allotments, Section 73.606(b). 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

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.