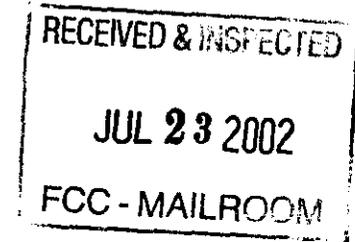




City of Gig Harbor. The "Maritime City"

3105 JUDSON STREET
GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON 98335
(253) 851-8136



July 18, 2002

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 Twelfth Street SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Re: Request to Deny Move of KMCQ to Covington, WA
FCC MB Docket No. 02-136, RM-10458

Gentlemen:

On behalf of both established local radio service and emergency public safety services provided by the Peninsula School District radio station KGHP to the City of Gig Harbor (KGHP's City of License), we ask the Federal Communications Commission to DENY the move of radio station KMCQ from The Dalles, Oregon to Covington, Washington. The proposed Covington service will conflict with KGHP's FM frequency of 104.5 MHz.

KGHP, particularly through the effective use of its translator K283AH, is an essential part of the local public safety program that we continue to improve to deal with multiple forms of possible harm to our residents, especially since the events of 9-11.

The Gig Harbor and Key Peninsulas, part of the greater Kitsap Peninsula, are potentially isolated in emergency situations by virtue of the Narrows Bridge, our lone immediate access to the Seattle/Tacoma area. Highway 16, the lone military corridor connecting McChord, Fort Lewis and Camp Murray to the Bremerton Naval Shipyard, Bangor Depot and Trident Nuclear Submarine Base runs through our jurisdiction. Even now, we see regular, heavily armed marine patrols in our local bay in light of the terrorist threat. Our area is potentially subject to catastrophic bridge failures, volcanic events, lahars (Mt. Rainier), major Pacific subduction zone seismic events (Richter Scale 7-9), and climatic disasters.

To cope with our geographic separation and with these real threats, we maintain a system that links personal neighborhood organizations; local police, fire and public works agencies; and Pierce County Emergency Management to the broader resources of Washington state and the federal emergency resource system. Radio Station KGHP is a primary component of our local emergency communications scheme.

In all of these operations of broadcasting information for public information and safety, KGHP's translator K283AH operating on 104.5 plays a most vital part, reaching areas where other signals from KGHP on 89.9 do not penetrate.

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Federal Communications Commission

July 18, 2002

Page Two

Now, more than ever, our area emergency management network should remain intact. The City of Gig Harbor requests the Federal Communications Commission, for the safety of our citizens, to DENY any action which would impede, lessen, or remove the signal coverage of Translator K283AH.

Sincerely,



Gretchen A. Wilbert
Mayor, City of Gig Harbor

GAW/jp

cc: Representative Norm Dicks
Senator Maria Cantwell
Dr. Mark Hoppen, City Administrator, City of Gig Harbor
Ms. Carol Morris, City Attorney, City of Gig Harbor
Mr. Keith Stiles, KGHP
J. Dominic Manahan, Esq., Counsel for Mid-Columbia Broadcasting, Inc.
Mark N. Lipp, Esq., Counsel for First Broadcasting Company, L.P.