

City of Winchester

Received & Inspected
MAR 25 2009
FCC Mail Room



Office of the Mayor

Established 1793

March 11, 2009

Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street Northeast
Washington, DC 20002

RE: Part 90 Rules
"TIS" Service to
(Local Government Radio Service)
Docket #09-19/RM#11514

Dear Secretary:

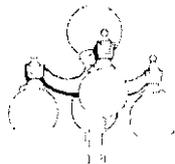
The City of Winchester strongly endorses the petitions by Highway Information Systems (HIS) and the American Association of Information Radio Operators (AAIRO) to relabel TIS stations as Local Government Radio Stations. As I understand the rule change, it would eliminate the need for signals to be near major highways and to allow for broader information of a non-commercial nature and not just information for travelers.

Let me as succinctly as possible state the basis for our position.

Winchester is a Central Kentucky city with a population of 17,000 approximately. Though there are radio stations operating in adjoining communities that broadcast into the community of Winchester and Clark County, they are not committed first to Winchester. We had low power WYAH FM until just recently when the license was relinquished. However, our AM station WWKY (1380) a Winchester radio station for 50+ years has changed their city of license from Winchester. We do have 1610 A.M., but it is very low power and has a minimal signal.

Recently, a devastating ice storm hammered our State. During the worst for our community – a two-week period with residences without power, we had no way to communicate with the public. We were at the mercy of the media in a neighboring market. Television is often inadequate during power outages.

For a community our size, this is an unbelievable hindrance to communicating with the public during a crisis of this order.



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Being able to up-power and broadcast local government and community news and notes could be literally a lifesaver. We would like to both up-power 1610 and broadcast general government and community news in all situations.

As a side note, if there is any way to help Winchester get a commercial radio station that would be appreciated.

I cannot believe that there are many communities of our size facing a similar predicament.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Burnett". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Ed Burnett

EB/jlc

Cc: Hays McMakin
Ken Kerns
City Commissioners
Judge Henry Branham
Gary Epperson