

In the matter of Revitalization of the AM Radio Service MB Docket No. 13-249  
I give my comments below.

AM radio has survived everything that has been thrown its way. From evergrowing levels of noise, to issues of band overcrowding, on up to near abandonment of the music format. Yet it's still here, and that says alot. Now though something needs to be done to preserve the existance of it.

While noise is definatly an issue, I don't think that an all digital scheme is the answer. How much would we gain from it and how much more fidelity would we gain, especially "rebanding" at 15KHz from the existing 10KHz spacing. Not to mention portable digital radios use far more current than a transistor radio does.

I suggest an older technology be brought back. I am speaking of AM Stereo. However it should be handled differently than in the past and I will explain why.

I think if this were to be done, all AM stations should be required to broadcast in stereo regardless of format. I say this because listeners should not have to wonder which stations broadcast in stereo and which ones don't. I believe this would just aid to confusion for the listener. People should not have to wonder who is broadcasting in stereo and who isn't. As silly as it may sound news/talk formatted stations could take advantage of this by airing thier advertisements in stereo, using this to "grab" thier audiences attention, or adding attention grabbing effects to thier show. I don't even need to mention what stereophonic broadcasting does to music... which could bring music back on AM. If bandspace permitting in any given broadcast area, perhaps broadcasters could be permitted to use 15KHz instead of the existing 10KHz bandwidth transmission during daytime operation only, adding life particularly to music stations while protecting neighboring stations during nightime operation.

On to the manufactuers end, all mid to high end receivers... car radios, home stereos and portables be encouraged to manufacture stereo ready AM receivers AMAX compliant. The AMAX standard allows for greater bandwidth (fidelity) while reducing noise by employing noise blanking circui try. Lower end radios such as some pocket radios and emregency kit radios should not be required to be stereo ready, as there is no place for it here, and it would only drive up the cost of such radios to manufacture. Lastly all stereo ready receivers should give the listener to ability to readily toggle the stereo mode on or off, as tuning into weaker stations or driving away from a station sometimes can get hissy while in the stereo mode.

I think that if a stereo scheme was implimented, a great deal could benefit from it.

However to be fair to the audience, broadcasters, and manufactures alike it should take palce over a transitional period.