

**Richard W. Burden Associates**

20944 Sherman Way, Suite 213 Canoga Park, CA 91303 818-340-4590 [rwburden@pacbell.net](mailto:rwburden@pacbell.net)

In the issue of improvements to AM Broadcasting, It's time to get serious about Public Service Broadcasting.

Traveler's Information Stations have been around for some time now, and yes they do offer information of value to the traveling public.

When the service was first inaugurated, a petition to the rulemaking restricting the audio spectrum to 3 kHz (6A3 emission) was filed. Without returning to the proceedings, this offered a distinction between broadcast audio qualities to that of the new Traveler's Information Service which shared the AM Broadcast Band.

Unfortunately, this action has done a disservice to the listener, who is the very person with whom we wish to communicate, especially in emergencies.

Vowels fall within the 3 kHz audio spectrum with consonants falling into the 4 kHz to 6 kHz audio spectrum. Ever wonder why we repeat letters phonetically in our telephone conversations? This is why. The recommended speech bandwidth given in Dr. Harry Olson's Acoustical Engineering Handbook is 100 Hz to 8 kHz.

Limiting the TIS audio spectrum to 5 kHz has been proposed as a compromise. Experimentation with this concept was undertaken by a number of AM broadcast stations in an attempt to improve Digital AM Broadcasting (DAB) a few years ago with most, if not all, returning to their traditional audio spectrum. The question then remains; why the recommendation?

The issue of first adjacent interference is of obvious interest in the subject of the occupied bandwidth and understandably so. However, the existing rules already offer adequate spacing with respect to first adjacent facilities. In reality, it is more often that narrow band filters will produce a spike that can be detected in the first adjacent channel. I have already conducted that simple experiment by standing next to the antenna of a TIS facility and listening on a standard car radio to a first adjacent channel outside of its protected area. The result suggests the removal of the filter in improving first adjacent interference.

In conclusion, it is notable that the Commission is showing considerable interest in AM Broadcast improvement. The Traveler's Information Service is also an integral part of the AM Broadcast spectrum. Thus, the quality of TIS facilities also deserves equal consideration.