Federal Communications Commission

§ 0.451 Inspection of records: Generally.

(a) Records which are routinely available for public inspection. Sections 0.453 and 0.455 list those Commission records which are routinely available for public inspection and the places at which those records may be inspected. Procedures governing requests for inspection of such records are set out in §0.460.

(b) Records which are not routinely available for public inspection. Records which are not listed in §0.453 or §0.455 are not routinely available for public inspection. Such records fall into two categories.

(1) The first category consists of those records or kinds of records listed in §0.457 and of particular records withheld from public inspection under...
§ 0.459. The Commission has determined that there is a statutory basis for withholding these records from public inspection. In some cases, the Commission is prohibited from permitting the inspection of records. In other cases, the records are the property of another agency, and the Commission has no authority to permit their inspection. In still other cases, the Commission is authorized, for reason of policy, to withhold records from inspection, but is not required to do so.

(2) The second category consists of records that are not listed in § 0.453, § 0.455, or § 0.457 and have not been withheld from inspection under § 0.459. In some cases, these records have not been identified for listing. In other cases (e.g., the general correspondence files), the Commission is unable to determine either that all records in a class should be routinely available for inspection or that all records in that class should not be routinely available for inspection, and individualized determination is required.

(3) Procedures governing requests for inspection of these records are set forth in § 0.461.

(4) Procedures governing demands by competent authority for inspection of these records are set forth in § 0.463.

(5) Except as provided in § 0.461 and § 0.463, or pursuant to § 19.735–203 of this chapter, no officer or employee of the Commission shall permit the inspection of records which are not routinely available for public inspection under § 0.453 or § 0.455, or disclose information contained therein.

NOTE TO PARAGRAPH (4): The Commission may require advance payment pursuant to § 0.469 before releasing documents.

§ 0.453 Public reference rooms.

The Commission maintains the FCC Reference Information Center as its public reference room at its offices in Washington, DC. Much of the information available from the public reference room may also be retrieved from the Commission’s main Web site at http://www.fcc.gov and its electronic reading room at http://www.fcc.gov/foia/e-room.html:

(a) The Reference Information Center. Maintains files containing the record of all docketed cases, petitions for rule making and related papers. A file is maintained for each docketed hearing case and for each docketed rule making proceeding. Cards summarizing the history of such cases for the years before 1984 are available for inspection. Information summarizing the history of such cases for the years from 1984 through present is available online on the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).

(b) Broadcast Services. The following files and documents are available, including:

(1) Applications for radio and television broadcast station construction permits, licenses, modifications of facilities, license renewal, assignments and transfer of control, including any Commission correspondence or rulings pertaining to those applications;

(2) Petitions to deny, informal objections, and complaints directed against the stations and/or station applications;

(3) Ownership reports filed by licensees pursuant to § 73.3615 of this chapter;

(4) Television network application contracts, radio and television time brokerage agreements, and other documents required to be filed under § 73.3613 of this chapter;

(5) Children’s television programming reports filed by commercial television licensees pursuant to § 73.3326 of this chapter;