

Rule Making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments. See 47 CFR 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible *ex parte* contacts.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, see 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

#### List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio broadcasting.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

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BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

#### 47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 96-229, RM-8919]

#### Radio Broadcasting Services; Boonville, Missouri

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** This document requests comments on a petition filed by Big Country of Missouri proposing the allotment of Channel 226A to Boonville, Missouri, as that community's second local FM broadcast service. The coordinates for Channel 226A are 38-58-00 and 92-35-54. There is a site restriction 11.9 kilometers (7.4 miles) east of the community.

**DATES:** Comments must be filed on or before January 6, 1997, and reply comments on or before January 21, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554 In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the petitioner, as follows: Richard L. Billings, Big Country of Missouri, Inc., 1600 Radio Hill Road, Boonville, Missouri 65333.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kathleen Scheuerle, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This is a summary of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No.96-229, adopted November 8, 1996 and released November 15, 1996. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the Commission's Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, NW, Washington, D.C. The complete text of this decision

may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractors, International Transcription Services, Inc., 2100 M Street, N.W., Suite 140, Washington, D.C. 20037, (202) 857-3800.

Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that from the time a Notice of Proposed Rule Making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments. See 47 CFR 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible *ex parte* contact.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, see 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

#### List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio broadcasting.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

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#### 47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 87-268; FCC DA96-1929]

#### Advanced Television Systems and Their Impact on the Existing Television Service

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; extension of time.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission is extending the time for filing reply comments relating to the *Sixth Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making* in this proceeding until January 10, 1997. The Commission also indicates that it will accept late-filed comments for a reasonable period of time after the November 22, 1996, due date for comments. This action will allow the development of a complete record on the matter of channel allotments for operation of digital TV service.

**DATES:** Comments received after the original November 22, 1996, due date will be accepted for a reasonable period of time; reply comments must be received on or before January 10, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bruce Franca (202-418-2470), Alan

Stillwell (202-418-2470) or Robert Eckert (202-418-2470), Office of Engineering and Technology.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. On July 25, 1996, the Commission adopted a *Sixth Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Sixth FNPRM)* in MM Docket No. 87-268, 61 FR 43209, August 21, 1996, that proposed policies for developing the initial channel allotments for digital TV (DTV) service, proposed procedures for assigning DTV allotments, and plans for spectrum recovery. The *Sixth FNPRM* also contains a draft DTV Table of Allotments. Comments and reply comments responding to the *Sixth FNPRM* were due November 22, 1996, and December 23, 1996, respectively.

2. On November 13, 1996, Cohen, Dippell and Everist (CDE), a consulting engineering firm, submitted a request seeking to extend the dates for filing comments and reply comments in response to the *Sixth FNPRM*. It asks that the comment and reply dates be extended 60 days. CDE argues that this additional time is needed to study the multiple technical issues related to DTV operation, including propagation, protection ratios to and from other radio services, out-of-band emissions, use of channel 6, alternative allotment possibilities, etc. that are addressed in the *Sixth FNPRM*.

3. A number of parties representing broadcast interests, including ABC, ALTV, APTS, CBS, Chris Craft, MSTV, NAB, NBC PBS, and Tribune (Broadcasters) submitted a joint opposition to CDE's request for an extension of time. Broadcasters submit that it is important that the Commission adopt a DTV Table as soon as possible. They argue this is the only way to ensure that the long-awaited DTV service is licensed in the very near future. They observe that the DTV transmission standard and planning factors used to allot and assign DTV channels have been under study for nine years. Broadcasters further state, however, that they recognize the importance of providing an opportunity to fully study and to comment meaningfully on the *Sixth FNPRM*. They therefore urge that instead of extending the time in which to file all comments, the Commission should: (1) accept late filed comments for a reasonable period time, and (2) extend the time for filing reply comments to January 10, 1997. Broadcasters submit that, with the approach of the holiday season, this approach should give all parties an