

rulemaking have been directly affected by the flooding. Many more parties, including the public, and local, State, and Federal agencies wish to make comments on the proposed rule but have been preoccupied in flood water management operations and/or flood recovery activities. The Truckee-Carson Coordination Office has received many written requests for extension, all citing the floods as affecting the time they have available to review the proposed rule and provide comments. An additional 60 days would allow all interested parties to review the proposed rule and supplemental information, and prepare and submit comments.

John Garamendi,

Deputy Secretary.

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BILLING CODE 4310-RK-M

Bureau of Land Management

43 CFR Parts 6300 and 8560

[WO-420-1060-00 24 1A]

RIN 1004-AB69

Wilderness Management

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Extension of comment period for proposed rule.

SUMMARY: On December 19, 1996, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) published a document in the **Federal Register** announcing a proposed rule to revise and update existing regulations for management of designated wilderness areas (61 FR 66968). The 60-day comment period for the proposed rule expires on February 18, 1997. BLM has received several requests from the public for additional time to comment and is extending the comment period for an additional 60 days.

DATES: Submit comments by April 21, 1997.

ADDRESSES:

If you wish to comment, you may:

(a) Hand-deliver comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L St., NW., Washington, DC.;

(b) Mail comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401LS, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240; or

(c) Send comments through the internet to WOCComment@wo.blm.gov. Please include "attn: AB69", and your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive

a confirmation from the system that we have received your internet message, please contact us directly at (202) 452-5030.

You will be able to review comments at BLM's Regulatory Affairs Group office, Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.) Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rob Hellie, Cultural Heritage, Wilderness, Special Areas & Paleontology Group, at (202) 452-7703.

Dated: February 11, 1997.

Frank Bruno,

Acting Manager, Regulatory Affairs Group.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Parts 73 and 76

[MM Docket Nos. 94-150, 92-51, 87-154, 91-221, 87-8, 96-222 & 96-197; DA 97-210]

Broadcast Services; TV Ownership; Newspaper/Radio Cross Ownership

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of reply comment deadline.

SUMMARY: The Commission granted a two-week extension of the deadline to file reply comments in the above-cited dockets in response to a request filed by the Media Access Project (MAP) on behalf of a number of other organizations. The deadline to file reply comments in these proceedings is now March 21, 1997. The Commission determined that a brief extension of the reply comment deadline was warranted to facilitate the development of a full record, but declined to grant a longer extension of the reply comment deadline or to extend the deadline for filing initial comments as requested by MAP. The intended effect of this action is to allow the parties additional time to review the initial comments filed in these proceedings and to prepare reply comments responding to the issues raised in the initial comments.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Reply comments are now due by March 21, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 2000 M Street, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Matthews, Mania Baghdadi, Paul Gordon, Roger Holberg or Charles Logan (202) 418-2130, Mass Media Bureau.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the *Order* granting an extension of time for filing reply comments in MM Docket Nos. 94-150, 92-51, 87-154, 91-221, 87-8, 96-222 and 96-197; DA 97-210, adopted January 30, 1997, and released January 30, 1997. The complete text of this *Order* is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and also may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, (202) 857-3800, 2100 M Street, N.W., Suite 140, Washington, D.C. 20037.

Synopsis of Order Extending Time for Filing Reply Comments

1. On November 5, 1996, the Commission adopted three related rulemaking items regarding national and local ownership of television stations and attribution of broadcast and cable/MDS ownership interests. *Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, 61 FR 66987 (December 19, 1996) in MM Docket Nos. 96-222, 91-221, and 87-8, FCC 96-437 (released November 7, 1996) (national ownership proceeding); *Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, 61 FR 66978 (December 19, 1996) in MM Docket Nos. 91-221 and 87-8, FCC 96-438 (released November 7, 1996) (local ownership proceeding); *Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, 61 FR 67275 (December 20, 1996) in MM Docket Nos. 94-150, 92-51, and 87-154, FCC 96-436 (released November 7, 1996) (attribution proceeding). Comments in all three of these proceedings are currently due by February 7, 1997, and reply comments are currently due by March 7, 1997. In addition, on September 17, 1996, the Commission adopted a *Notice of Inquiry*, 61 FR 53694 (October 15, 1996) regarding its policy for waiving its newspaper/radio cross ownership restriction. *Notice of Inquiry* in MM Docket 96-197, 11 FCC Rcd 13003 (1996). Comments in that proceeding were initially due to be filed by December 9, 1996, and reply comments by January 8, 1997. By Order released December 5, 1996, the Commission extended the comment and reply comment deadlines in that proceeding to coincide with the comment and reply comment deadlines in the national ownership, local ownership, and attribution proceedings. In so doing, the Commission reasoned that the issues raised in the newspaper/radio cross ownership proceeding were similar to those raised in the other three rulemaking proceedings, and that it was appropriate that the four proceedings share the same comment and reply

comment deadlines to facilitate the development of a more comprehensive record.

2. On January 17, 1997, the Media Access Project (MAP), on behalf of a number of other organizations, filed a request for a thirty day extension of both the comment and reply comment deadlines in the national ownership, local ownership, and attribution proceedings. In the alternative, in the event the Commission declines to grant this request, MAP requests a forty-five day extension of the reply comment deadline in the three proceedings. In support of its request, MAP argues that each of the rulemaking proceedings involves matters of great importance, and that the short comment and reply comment periods create an onerous workload for parties interested in filing comments, especially counsel for members of the public which have limited staff and resources. Because the comment and reply comment deadlines in the three proceedings coincide, MAP argues that it will be difficult to thoroughly address the issues raised in each of the separate proceedings. MAP claims this difficulty is especially pronounced with respect to preparation of reply comments, as commenters will have only one month in which to read and respond to the initial comments filed in all three proceedings. Finally,

MAP notes that there are a number of other unrelated proceedings currently before the Commission with similar comment deadlines in which MAP is participating, further straining its resources.

3. As set forth in Section 1.46 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.46, it is our policy that extensions of time for filing comments in rulemaking proceedings shall not be routinely granted. We gave interested parties three months in which to prepare and file initial comments in the three proceedings for which MAP requests extensions, and we continue to believe this amount of time is adequate to permit development of a comprehensive record. However, given the total number of comments we expect to receive in the three proceedings, the complexity of the issues involved, and the interrelated issues raised by the three proceedings, we believe it is appropriate to grant an additional 14 days in which to file reply comments. While this is not as long as MAP's alternative request to extend the reply comment deadline, we believe a 14-day extension is sufficient in that it will give parties a total of 45 days after the initial comments are filed in which to file reply comments. Although MAP did not request an extension of time with respect to the newspaper/radio cross ownership proceeding, we also, on

our own motion, extend the reply comment deadline in that proceeding to maintain a concurrent schedule for all four proceedings.

4. Accordingly, *it is ordered* that the Request for Extension of Time to Submit Comments and Reply Comments filed in MM Docket Nos. 94-150, 92-51, 87-154, 91-221, 87-8, and 96-222 by MAP is granted to the extent detailed herein.

5. *It is further ordered* that the time for filing reply comments in the above-captioned proceedings is extended to March 21, 1997.

6. This action is taken pursuant to authority found in Sections 4(i) and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i) and 303(r), and Sections 0.204(b), 0.283, and 1.45 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.204(b), 0.283, and 1.45.

List of Subjects

47 CFR Part 73

Television, Radio.

47 CFR Part 76

Cable television.

Federal Communications Commission.

Roy J. Stewart,

Chief, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 97-3953 Filed 2-14-97; 8:45 am]

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