

Copies of the State submittal and EPA's analysis of it are available for inspection at: Regulation Development Section, Air Programs Branch (AR-18J), United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William Jones at (312) 886-6058 and Francisco Acevedo at (312) 886-6061.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** For additional information see the direct final rule published in the rules section of this **Federal Register**.

**Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q.

Dated: January 9, 1998.

**Michelle D. Jordan,**

*Acting Regional Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 98-2085 Filed 1-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### 40 CFR Part 52

[FRL-5956-7]

#### Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPR) for NO<sub>x</sub> SIP Call—Clarification of Comment Process

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; clarification of comment process.

**SUMMARY:** On November 7, 1997, the **Federal Register** published the Environmental Protection Agency's (the Agency's) Finding of Significant Contribution and Rulemaking for Certain States in the Ozone Transport Assessment Group Region for Purposes of Reducing Regional Transport of Ozone; Proposed Rule, 40 CFR part 52. The proposed rule provides a 120-day comment period which ends March 9, 1998. The proposed rule also states that "Because commenters may wish to submit technical information that may require additional time to develop, EPA will accept additional pertinent information beyond the 120-day time frame and will do what is possible to take the information into account for the final rulemaking." However, the EPA is publishing today's document to clarify that certain information, described below, must be submitted by the end of the 120-day comment period to be considered in the final rulemaking.

As part of the final rulemaking, EPA intends to perform certain air quality modeling analyses. In order for these analyses to be completed in time for the final rulemaking, emission inventory data need to be finalized by mid-March.

Therefore, any comments concerning emission inventory data that are to be considered in the modeling analyses must be received by EPA within the official 120-day comment period (i.e., by March 9, 1998). Comments related to the inventory that are received after this date cannot be considered for the purpose of modeling.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Laurel Schultz, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Emissions, Monitoring and Analysis Division, MD-14, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, telephone (919) 541-5511.

Dated: January 23, 1998.

**Richard D. Wilson,**

*Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.*

[FR Doc. 98-2207 Filed 1-27-98; 8:45 am]

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## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### 47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 98-2; RM-9217]

#### Radio Broadcasting Services; Hawesville and Whitesville, KY

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission requests comments on a petition filed by WLME, Inc., proposing the reallocation of Channel 246A from Hawesville to Whitesville, Kentucky, and the modification of Station WXCM(FM)'s license accordingly. Channel 246A can be reallocated to Whitesville in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements with a site restriction of 13.9 kilometers (8.6 miles) north to accommodate petitioner's requested site. The coordinates for Channel 246A at Whitesville are North Latitude 37-48-39 and West Longitude 86-53-18. In accordance with § 1.420(i) of the Commission's Rules, we will not accept competing expressions of interest in the use of Channel 246A at Whitesville, Kentucky.

**DATES:** Comments must be filed on or before March 16, 1998, and reply comments on or before March 31, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the petitioner, or its counsel or consultant, as follows: Patricia M. Chuh, Pepper & Corazzini, L.L.P., 1176 K Street, NW.,

Suite 200, Washington, DC. 20006 (Counsel for Petitioner).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sharon P. McDonald, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No. 98-2, adopted January 14, 1998, and released January 23, 1998. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, NW., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 1231 20th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036.

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* 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.*

[FR Doc. 98-2033 Filed 1-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### 47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 98-3; RM-9218]

#### Radio Broadcasting Services; Manson, WA

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission requests comments on a petition filed by Manson Broadcasting proposing the allotment of Channel 234C3 at Manson, Washington, as the community's first local aural transmission service. Channel 234C3 can be allotted to Manson in compliance

with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements at city reference coordinates. The coordinates for Channel 234C3 at Manson are North Latitude 47-53-18 and West Longitude 120-09-18. Since Manson is located within 320 kilometers (200 miles) the U.S.-Canadian border, concurrence of the Canadian government has been requested.

**DATES:** Comments must be filed on or before March 16, 1998, and reply comments on or before March 31, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the petitioner, his counsel, or consultant, as follows: Duane J. Polich, Manson Broadcasting, P.O. Box 70, Oak Harbor, Washington 98277 (Petitioner).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sharon P. McDonald, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No. 98-3, adopted January 14, 1998, and released January 23, 1998. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, NW., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 1231 20th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036.

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* 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.

[FR Doc. 98-2032 Filed 1-27-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### 50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AE57

#### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Threatened Status for the Plant *Astragalus Desereticus* (Deseret milk-vetch)

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposes to determine a Utah plant species, *Astragalus desereticus* (Deseret milk-vetch), to be a threatened species under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). *Astragalus desereticus*, considered extinct for 72 years prior to 1981, exists as one small population in Utah County, Utah. Threats to the plant include residential development, livestock grazing, livestock and wildlife trampling, and threats associated with small population size. This proposal, if made final, would implement Federal protection provided by the Act. The Service seeks data and comments from the public on this proposal.

**DATES:** Comments from all interested parties must be received by March 30, 1998. Public hearing requests must be received by March 16, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and materials concerning this proposal should be sent to the Field Supervisor, Utah Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lincoln Plaza Suite 404, 145 East 1300 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John L. England at the above address (telephone: 801/524-5001, ext. 138).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Marcus E. Jones collected a distinctive *Astragalus* from "below Indianola," a town in Sanpete County, Utah, on June 2, 1893. The same species was again collected by Ivar Tidestrom from "near Indianola" on June 17, 1909. Specimens from these two collections lay in obscurity in various herbaria until Rupert Barneby recognized their uniqueness and described them as *Astragalus desereticus* (Barneby 1964). Efforts to relocate the species were

initially fruitless (Barneby 1964; Welsh 1978a, 1978c), leading to a presumption of extinction (Ripley 1975; Welsh 1975, 1978b). However, a population of *A. desereticus* was discovered by Elizabeth Neese on May 27, 1981, on a sandstone outcrop above the town of Birdseye, Utah County, Utah, less than 16 kilometers (km) (10 miles (mi)) from Indianola (Welsh and Chatterley 1985). This population remains the only known occurrence of this species (Franklin 1990, 1991; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 1991). It is possible that this population is the one from which Jones and/or Tidestrom made their collections more than 70 years earlier (Franklin 1990, 1991; Welsh and Chatterley 1985).

*Astragalus desereticus* is a perennial, herbaceous plant in the bean family (Fabaceae). Individual plants are approximately 4 to 15 centimeters (cm) (2 to 6 inches (in)) in height, with stems about 6 cm (2 in) tall. The pinnately compound leaves are 4 to 11 cm (2 to 4 in) long with 11 to 17 leaflets. The leaflets are elliptic to ovate in shape, with dense silvery gray hairs on both sides. The flowers are 1.8 to 2.2 cm (0.7 to 0.9 in) long, white in color with a purple tip on the keel, and borne on a stalk of 5 to 10 flowers. The seed pods are 1 to 2 cm (0.4 to 0.8 in) long, covered with lustrous hairs, and bear 14 to 16 ovules (Barneby 1964; Barneby in Cronquist *et al.* 1989; Welsh 1978c; Welsh *et al.* 1987).

*Astragalus desereticus* occurs primarily on steep south- and west-facing slopes. The plant grows on soils derived from a specific and unusual portion of the geologic Moroni Formation. This geologic feature is characterized by coarse, crudely bedded conglomerate (Franklin 1990). The plant community in which *A. desereticus* occurs is dominated by pinon pine (*Pinus edulis*) and Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*). Other associated plant species include: sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), scrub oak (*Quercus gambelii*), and wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum brevicaulis*) (Franklin 1990).

The only known population of *Astragalus desereticus* consists of between 5,000 and 10,000 individuals growing in an area of less than 120 hectares (ha) (300 acres (ac)) (Franklin 1990, Stone 1992). The species' total range is approximately 2.6 km (1.6 mi) long and 0.5 km (0.3 mi) across. Extensive searches of similar habitat in other parts of Utah have not revealed any other populations (Franklin 1991; Larry England, USFWS, pers. comm., 1997). The land upon which *A. desereticus* grows is owned by the State