

be further clarified in forthcoming regulations. Section 4001 of the BBA mandates an expedited and modified negotiated rulemaking process for establishing solvency standards for PSOs. The standards must be published as an interim final rule, subject to comment, by April 1, 1998.

As required by the BBA, the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee reported to the Secretary by January 1, 1998, regarding its progress and movement toward building a consensus. The Committee is required to report its proposed standards to the Secretary by March 1, 1998. If, however, the Committee is unable to reach a consensus within the assigned time frame or at the completion of this additional meeting, the Health Care Financing Administration will proceed with publication of a rule using its rulemaking authority as established in the BBA.

Five 3-day meetings of the Committee have been held through October, November, December, and January that were facilitated by the Departmental Appeals Board. After the initial meetings at which informative presentations were heard, the Committee has been actively developing and negotiating PSO solvency standards. A sixth meeting, previously announced in an October 26, 1997 **Federal Register** Notice, will occur February 18, 19, and 20, 1998. However, due to the short time frame in which the Committee has had to work and the possibility that the Committee may need some additional meeting time to complete its work, this tentative final meeting is being scheduled for the first week of March. If the Committee is unable to complete work on the interim final rule at its February meeting and the facilitator believes an agreement could be reached with an additional meeting, then the meeting will occur on March 3 and 4. If the Committee reaches consensus during the February meeting, or if consensus is not reached and the Committee believes it is unlikely that an agreement can be reached within the extended time frame, the March meeting will not be held. The decision will be publicly available as directed above.

All meetings are open to the public without advanced registration. Public attendance at the meetings may be limited to space available. A summary of all proceedings is available for inspection in Room 309-G of the Department's offices at 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, on Monday through Friday of each week from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Phone: (202) 690-7890), or can be accessed through the HCFA Internet

site at <http://www/hcfa.gov/medicare/mgdcare1>. Additional information related to the Committee will be available on the web site.

Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.2).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.773, Medicare—Hospital Insurance; and Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: February 11, 1998.

Nancy-Ann Min Deparle,

Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-3841 Filed 2-12-98; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 98-12, RM-9220]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Speculator, NY

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission requests comments on a petition filed by Michael Celenza and Peter Hunn seeking the allotment of Channel 243A to Speculator, NY, as the community's first local aural service. Channel 243A can be allotted to Speculator in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements without the imposition of a site restriction, at coordinates 43-29-50 North Latitude and 74-21-44 West Longitude. Canadian concurrence in the allotment is required since Speculator is located within 320 kilometers (200 miles) of the U.S.-Canadian border.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before March 30, 1998, and reply comments on or before April 14, 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: Peter Hunn, 604 Meadowbrook Circle, Fulton, NY 13069 (Petitioner).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leslie K. Shapiro, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No. 98-12, adopted January 28, 1998, and released February 6, 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 Services, 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. 98-3740 Filed 2-12-98; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 98-16, RM-9213]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Three Rivers, TX

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission requests comments on a petition filed by Live Oak Broadcasting requesting the allotment of Channel 265A at Three Rivers, Texas, as the community's second local FM service. Channel 265A can be allotted to in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements with a site restriction of 4.2 kilometers (2.6 miles) southeast in order to avoid a short-spacing conflict with the site specified in Station KONO(FM)'s construction permit for Channel 266C1 at Helotes, Texas. The coordinates for Channel 265A at Three Rivers are 28-25-45 NL and 98-09-51 WL.