

distribute the corrected report and statement(s) to previous queriers (where identifiable), the reporting entity and the subject of the report.

(ii) Concludes that the information contained in the report is inaccurate, the Secretary will inform the subject of the determination and direct the HIPDB or the reporting entity to revise the report. The Secretary will include a brief statement (Secretarial Statement) in the report describing the findings. The HIPDB will distribute the corrected report and statement (s) to previous queriers (where identifiable), the reporting entity and the subject of the report.

(iii) Determines that the disputed issues are outside the scope of the Department's review, the Secretary will inform the subject and the HIPDB of the determination. The Secretary will include a brief statement (Secretarial Statement) in the report describing the findings. The report will be removed from "disputed status." The HIPDB will distribute the report and the statement(s) to previous queriers (where identifiable), the reporting entity and the subject of the report.

(iv) Determines that the adverse action was not reportable and therefore should be removed from the HIPDB, the Secretary will inform the subject and direct the HIPDB to void the report.

The HIPDB will distribute a notice to previous queriers (where identifiable), the reporting entity and the subject of the report that the report has been voided.

Dated: April 10, 1998.

June Gibbs Brown,
Inspector General.

Approved: June 9, 1998.

Donna E. Shalala,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-29147 Filed 10-29-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-15-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Parts 73 and 74

[MM Docket No. 95-31; FCC 98-269]

Reexamination of Comparative Standards for Noncommercial Educational Applicants

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission is seeking further comment on methods that it might use to choose among competing applications involving noncommercial

educational (NCE) broadcast stations, both on the reserved and nonreserved portions of the broadcast spectrum. The Commission proposes to eliminate the current traditional hearing process, which has been costly and time consuming without making meaningful distinctions between applicants. It seeks comments on various alternatives, including lotteries and point systems. The intended effect is to improve methods for considering noncommercial educational broadcast applications, consistent with statutory requirements.

DATES: Comments are due on or before December 14, 1998. Reply comments are due on or before January 4, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Paper comments should be sent to Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554. Electronic comments should be sent via the Internet to <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Irene Bleiweiss, Mass Media Bureau, Audio Services Division (202) 418-2780.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's *Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making* (In the Matter of Reexamination of the Comparative Standards for Noncommercial Educational Applicants), adopted October 7, 1998, and released October 21, 1998. The complete text of this *Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making* 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, 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

Synopsis of Order

1. The Commission first issued a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* in this proceeding in 1995 [60 FR 15275 March 23, 1995]. The Commission is now issuing a *Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to seek comments on additional options and issues. The Commission proposes to discontinue its use of traditional comparative hearings to select among competing applicants for noncommercial educational (NCE) radio and television stations. It solicits comments on several alternatives.

2. With respect to applicants for channels reserved for NCE use, the Commission proposes to use either a lottery or a point system. A lottery would be weighted to give significant preference to applicants who would increase diversity of ownership and

applicants controlled by a member or members of a minority group, as required by statute. A point system would have no required statutory components. The Commission seeks comment on various factors for which it might award points, including local diversity, fair distribution of service, technical parameters, and other factors. The Commission also seeks comments on tie breakers, to be used if two or more applicants receive the same number of points.

3. NCE applicants, along with commercial applicants, can also currently apply for channels not specifically reserved for NCE use. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 requires that commercial licenses be awarded by auction but exempts certain NCE stations from auction. The Commission solicits comments on whether the statute would permit an auction between commercial and NCE applicants for nonreserved channels, with or without bidding credits for the NCE applicant. It also presents several non-auction alternatives including expanding the limited circumstances under which the Commission will reclassify a commercial channel as available for NCE use only in a particular area; considering NCE entities ineligible to apply for nonreserved channels altogether; and hybrid approaches consisting of a lottery/auction or point system/auction. The Commission invites comments and additional suggestions from the public.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Parts 73 and 74

Radio broadcasting, Television broadcasting.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-29065 Filed 10-29-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

49 CFR Part 1146

[STB Ex Parte No. 628]

Expedited Relief for Service Inadequacies

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Extension of time for filing reply comments.

SUMMARY: In a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking served October 15, 1998, and published in the **Federal**