

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,

Secretary.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[DA 00-1394; MM Docket No. 00-55; RM-9836]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Falconer and Fredonia, NY

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; dismissal.

SUMMARY: The Commission, at the request of North Country Broadcasting, Inc., licensee of Station WCQA, Fredonia, NY, dismisses its petition to reallocate Channel 243A from Fredonia to Falconer, NY, and modify Station WCQA's license accordingly. See 65 FR 17618, April 4, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Leslie K. Shapiro, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Report and Order, MM Docket No. 00-55, adopted June 14, 2000, and released June 23, 2000. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 445 12th Street, SW, 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.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

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

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 74

[MM Docket No. 00-105; FCC 00-203]

Broadcast Services; Radio Stations, Television Stations

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document proposes to eliminate the Commission rule that prohibits an entity from controlling more than one experimental broadcast station license absent a showing of need. As a result of the preliminary determination in the Commission's biennial review proceeding that this rule is no longer necessary in the public interest as a result of competition, this document proposes to eliminate the subject provision.

DATES: Comments are due by September 1, 2000, and reply comments are due by October 2, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Roger Holberg, Mass Media Bureau, Policy and Rules Division, (202) 418-2134.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the *Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in MM Docket No. 00-105, FCC 00-203, adopted June 5, 2000, and released June 20, 2000. The complete text of this *NPRM* is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center, Room CY-A257, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. and may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service (202)857-3800, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room CY-B402, Washington, D.C. The *NPRM* is also available on the Internet at the Commission's website: <http://www.fcc.gov>.

Synopsis of Notice of Proposed Rule Making

1. By this *NPRM* the Commission proposes to eliminate the multiple ownership rule for experimental broadcast stations which now provides that no entity may control more than one experimental license absent a showing of need (47 CFR 74.134). We seek comment on whether this rule remains necessary to achieve goals of competition and diversity in the broadcast market. The Commission stated in the Biennial Review *Notice of Inquiry (Notice of Inquiry, In the Matter of 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review, Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, 13 F.C.C.R. 11276, 11293-94 (1998) (NOI))* a tentative belief that this rule has a negligible impact on these goals and sought comment on whether this rule remains necessary in the public interest. Accordingly, this *NPRM* seeks comment on the repeal of § 74.134. Commenters

advocating less than the outright repeal of the rule are encouraged to propose alternatives to the current restriction.

I. Background

2. The multiple ownership rule for experimental broadcast stations was adopted in 1946 and generally limited ownership to one station. In 1963 this rule was redesignated as part 74 (74.134) with no changes. In 1984 the Commission combined parts 74 A (Experimental TV), 74 B (Experimental Facility) and 74 C (Developmental Broadcast Stations) into the present subpart 74 A (Experimental Broadcast Stations) without changing the ownership limit.

3. By Section 202(h) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996)), Congress directed the Commission to review its broadcast ownership rules as part of the biennial ownership review. That section requires the Commission to review its broadcast ownership rules biennially and to determine whether any of these rules are necessary in the public interest as the result of competition. Furthermore, it requires the Commission to "repeal or modify any regulation it determines to be no longer in the public interest."

4. Subpart A of part 74 of the Commission's Rules¹ sets forth the rules for licensing "experimental broadcast stations," which are defined as stations "licensed for experimental or developmental transmission of radio telephony, television, facsimile, or other types of telecommunication services intended for reception and use by the general public." Experimental broadcast facilities are used to carry on "research and experimentation for the development and advancement of new broadcast technology, equipment, systems or services which are more extensive or require other modes of transmission than can be accomplished by using a licensed broadcast station under an experimental authorization." The rules governing experimental broadcast stations encourage innovation while protecting existing services from interference. Licensees are subject to operating and reporting requirements and are prohibited from using the experimental broadcast facility in a commercial manner.

5. Currently, § 74.134 states that "[n]o persons (including all persons under common control) shall control, directly or indirectly, two or more experimental broadcast stations unless a showing is made that the program of research requires a licensing of two or more separate stations." This *NPRM* proposes