The meeting was webcast with open captioning at: www.fcc.gov/live. Open captioning was provided as well as a text only version on the FCC website. Other reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities were available upon request.
Additional information concerning this meeting may be obtained from the Office of Media Relations, (202) 418–0500. Audio/Video coverage of the meeting was broadcast live with open captioning over the internet from the FCC Live web page at www.fcc.gov/live. Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene Dortch, Secretary.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[OMB 3060–1034; FR 17250]

Information Collection Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collections. Comments are requested concerning: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the Commission’s burden estimate; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and ways to further reduce the information collection burden on small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees.

The FCC may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid OMB control number.

DATES: Written PRA comments should be submitted on or before January 25, 2021. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Direct all PRA comments to Cathy Williams, FCC, via email to PRA@fcc.gov and to Cathy.Williams@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information about the information collection, contact Cathy Williams at (202) 418–2918.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:


Number of Respondents and Responses: 270 respondents; 270 responses.

Estimated Hours per Response: 1 hour–8 hours.

Frequency of Response: On occasion reporting requirement.

Total Annual Burden: 490 hours.

Total Annual Cost: $197,000.

Obligation to Respond: Required to obtain or retain benefits. The statutory authority for this collection of information is contained in Sections 154(i), 303, 310, and 553 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

Nature and Extent of Confidentiality: There is no need for confidentiality with this collection of information.

Privacy Act Impact Assessment: No impact(s).

Needs and Uses: On October 27, 2020, the Commission released the All-Digital AM Broadcasting Report and Order, FCC 20–154, MB Dkts. 19–311, 13–249, where it adopts rules to allow AM radio stations, on a voluntary basis, to broadcast an all-digital signal using the HD radio in-band on-channel (IBOC) mode name MA3. This action benefits AM stations and their listeners by improving reception quality and listenable signal coverage in stations’ service areas by and by advancing the Commission’s goal of improving the AM service, thereby helping to ensure the future of the service. AM broadcast station licensees are required to notify the Commission of a change to all-digital operations using Digital Notification Form, FCC Form 335–AM. Specifically pertaining to this Information Collection, in the All-Digital AM Broadcasting Report and Order, the Commission requires AM broadcast stations to electronically file a digital notification using the existing FCC Form 335–AM Digital Notification (or any successor notification form) to notify the Commission of the following changes: (1) The commencement of new all-digital operation; (2) an increase in nominal power of an all-digital AM station; or (3) a transition from core-only to enhanced operating mode. Although we direct broadcasters to use the current Form 335–AM for all-digital notifications, additional information is required for notification of AM all-digital operations specifically.

Therefore, until the Form 335–AM is updated to display the new all-digital operation requirements, we direct filers to select “N/A” as appropriate within the form and submit an attachment containing the following information. These new all-digital AM notification requirements have been added to section 73.406 of the Commission’s rules.

(a) The type of notification (all-digital notification, increase in nominal power, reduction in nominal power, transition from core-only to enhanced, transition from enhanced to core-only, reversion from all-digital to hybrid or analog operation);

(b) the date that new or modified all-digital operation will commence or had ceased;

(c) a certification that the all-digital operations will conformance to the relevant nominal power and spectral emissions limits;

(d) the nominal power of the all-digital station;

(e) a certification that the all-digital station complies with all EAS requirements; and

(f) if a notification of commencement of new all-digital service or a nominal power change, whether the station is operating in core-only or enhanced mode.

The All-Digital AM Broadcasting Report and Order also revises and reorganizes the digital notification requirements formally contained in section 73.404(e) of the rules by removing paragraph 73.404(e) and adding new section 73.406 Notification.

The Notification Requirements Contained Under 47 CFR 73.406 Are as Follows

Hybrid AM and FM licensees must electronically file a digital notification to the Commission in Washington, DC, within 10 days of beginning IBOC digital operation. All-digital licensees must file a digital notification within 10 days of the following changes: (1) Any reduction in nominal power of an all-digital AM station; (2) a transition from enhanced to core-only operating mode; and (3) a reversion from all-digital to...