FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[DA 21–684; FR ID 33087]

Media Bureau Reminds Remaining Analog Low Power Television and Television Translator Stations Without Digital Construction Permits To File Immediately

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Media Bureau (Bureau) of the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) reminds those remaining analog Low Power Television and TV Translator stations (LPTV/translator stations) that have not filed for a digital construction permit to construct a digital facility to do so immediately. Those analog LPTV/translator stations that fail to take immediate action will risk having their license automatically cancelled, by operation of law, after the analog termination date. DATES: July 13, 2021 is the analog termination date and digital transition deadline.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Colombo (technical questions), Mark.Colombo@fcc.gov, (202) 418–7611, or Shaun Maher (legal questions), Shaun.Maher@fcc.gov, (202) 418–2324, of the Video Division, Media Bureau.


Remaining Analog LPTV/Translator Stations Without Digital Construction Permits. The Bureau has posted a list of the remaining analog LPTV/translator stations that have not obtained a digital construction permit to transition to digital operations on its web page: https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/analog_stations_without_a_digital_permit.xlsx. The Bureau remind these stations that, after 11:59 p.m. local time on July 13, 2021, they may no longer operate any facility in analog mode and all analog licenses shall automatically cancel at that time without any affirmative action by the Commission. Analog LPTV/translator stations without a valid digital construction permit as of 11:59 p.m. local time on July 13, 2021, will find that their analog license has been automatically cancelled and will have their call signs deleted.

To avoid automatic cancellation of their station license, remaining analog LPTV/translator stations that do not have a digital construction permit should immediately file an application for one to ensure that they will be considered before the July 13, 2021, analog termination deadline. The Bureau recommends filing an application for on-channel digital conversion (“flash-cut”) wherever possible in order to expedite processing. Instructions for filing an application for digital construction permit are included in the Appendix to the Public Notice. Late-Filed Construction Permit Extension Applications. All analog LPTV/translator stations receiving a digital construction permit, regardless of the date it is granted, are assigned a construction permit expiration date of July 13, 2021. Any analog LPTV/translator station that finds that it will need additional time to complete its digital construction may submit an application for extension of its digital construction permit. Because the March 15, 2021 deadline for filing an extension of digital construction permit (CP extension filing deadline) has already passed, stations will need to include a request for waiver of the CP extension filing deadline along with its request for extension. The Bureau encourage such stations to submit their extension applications and filing deadline waivers as soon as possible to ensure that they will be considered before the July 13, 2021 expiration of their digital construction permit. The grant of an extension of time to complete construction of a station’s digital facility will be in no way extend the July 13, 2021, analog service termination date. Instructions for filing an extension application are included in the Appendix to the Public Notice.

Requests for Silent Authority. The Bureau reminds licensees that a station may suspend operations for a period of not more than 30 days absent specific authority from the Commission. Stations that remain silent for more than 10 days must notify the Commission not later than the tenth day of their suspended operations by filing a Suspension of Operations Notification via LMS as outlined in Appendix B to the Public Notice. Stations that need to remain silent for more than 30 days must file a Silent STA via LMS as outlined in the Appendix to the Public Notice.

The Bureau also reminds stations that the license of any station that remains silent for any consecutive 12-month period expires automatically at the end of that period, by operation of law, except that the Commission may extend or reinstate such station license if the holder of the license prevails in an administrative or judicial appeal, the applicable law changes, or for any other reason to promote equity and fairness. Stations that need to extend and/or reinstate their license should do so as part of a Silent STA or if the station is operational by filing a Legal STA. Either may be filed via LMS as outlined in the Appendix to the Public Notice.

Surrender/Cancellation of Analog Licenses. Stations that choose not to convert to digital and instead intend to permanently discontinue operations must do so no later than 11:59 p.m. local time on July 13, 2021. If a station is currently silent and does not intend to recommence analog operation prior to July 13, 2021, or plans to permanently discontinue operation prior to July 13, 2021, the Bureau encourages such
stations to submit their station licenses for cancellation. Instructions for requesting cancellation of a station license are included in the Appendix to the Public Notice. For all other analog LPTV/translator stations that choose not to convert to digital but continue to operate in analog until 11:59 p.m. local time on July 13, 2021, their licenses will automatically cancel, by operation of law, and call signs will be deleted. Federal Communications Commission.

Thomas Horan
Chief of Staff, Media Bureau.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[OMB 3060–XXXX; FRS 31630]

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 collection(s).

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 comments should be submitted on or before August 16, 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 contacts 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:

OMB Control Number: 3060–XXXX.
Title: FCC Authorization for Radio Service License—3.45 GHz Band Service.
Form Number: N/A.
Type of Review: New collection.
Respondents: Business or other for-profit entities, state, local, or tribal government, and not for profit institutions.
Number of Respondents and Responses: 52 respondents, 8,197 responses.
Estimated Time per Response: 5–20 hours.
Frequency of Response: Third party disclosure requirement; on occasion reporting requirement and periodic reporting requirement.
Obligation to Respond: Required to obtain or retain benefits. Statutory authority for these collections are contained in 47 U.S.C. 151, 152, 154, 154(i), 155(c), 157, 201, 202, 208, 214, 301, 302a, 303, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 314, 316, 319, 324, 331, 332, 333, 336, 534, 535, and 554 of the Communications Act of 1934.
Total Annual Burden: 9,198 hours.
Total Annual Cost: $10,353,000.
Privacy Impact Assessment: No impacts.
Nature and Extent of Confidentiality: In general, there is no need for confidentiality with this collection of information. Insofar as confidential information is submitted to the Department of Defense as part of the coordination by 3.45 GHz Service licensees with Federal incumbents, the Department of Defense will ensure that information remains confidential.

Needs and Uses: On March 17, 2021, the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission” or “FCC”) adopted a Second Report and Order, FCC 21–32, GN Docket No. WT–19–348 (Second Report and Order) that establishes rules for flexible-use of the 100 megahertz in the 3450–3550 MHz (3.45 GHz) band, creating the new 3.45 GHz Service. The rules will create additional capacity for wireless broadband allowing full-power operations across the band in the entire contiguous United States, while also ensuring full protection of incumbent Federal operations remaining in particular locations. As part of this process, the Commission also adopted rules related to the relocation of incumbent non-Federal radio location operations, and reimbursement of expenses related to such relocation.

Sections 2.016 and 27.1603 require a 3.45 GHz Service licensee whose license area overlaps with a Cooperative Planning Area or Periodic Use Area, as defined in those sections, to coordinate deployments pursuant to those licenses in those areas with relevant Federal agencies. This coordination may take the form of a mutually acceptable operator-to-operator coordination agreement between the licensee and the relevant Federal agency. In the absence of such an agreement, this coordination will include a formal request for access through a Department of Defense online portal, which will include the submission of information related to the technical characteristics of the base stations and associated mobile units to be used in the covered area. It does not require a revision to the FCC Form 601.

Section 27.1605 requires non-Federal, secondary radio location operations which are relocating from the 3.45 GHz band to alternate spectrum to clear the band for new flexible-use wireless operations to submit certain information to a clearinghouse in order to ensure their relocation costs are fairly reimbursed. It does not require a revision to the FCC Form 601.

Section 27.1607 requires 3.45 GHz Service licensees to share certain information about their network operations in that band with operators in the adjacent Citizens Broadband Radio Service in order to enable the latter to synchronize their operations to reduce the risk of harmful interference. In response to a request by a Citizens Broadband Radio Service operator, a 3.45 GHz Service licensee must provide information to enable Time Division Duplex synchronization. The exact nature of the information to be provided will be determined by a negotiation between the two entities, conducted on a good faith basis. The 3.45 GHz Service licensee must keep the information current as its network operations change. This does not require a revision to the FCC Form 601.

Section 27.14(w) requires 3.45 GHz Service licensees to provide information on the extent to which they provide service in their license areas. Licensees are required to file two such reports: