

advance notice and an opportunity to participate. This document informs the public of the filing, invites public comment, and takes other administrative steps.

DATES: *Comments are due:* March 12, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system at <https://www.prc.gov>. Those who cannot submit comments electronically should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by telephone for advice on filing alternatives. The Rule Summary can be found on the Commission's Rule Summary Page at <https://www.prc.gov/rule-summary-page>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David A. Trissell, General Counsel, at 202-789-6820.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. Background

The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) is a federal law that, among other things, prescribes the procedural framework for formal agency adjudications and hearings required by statute to be made on the record.¹ Commission requirements for proceedings with an opportunity for a hearing on the record are described in 39 CFR part 3010, subpart F. Section 3010.302(e)(12), which governs prehearing conferences, requires the presiding officer and parties to consider and resolve several matters, including “[a]ll other matters which would aid in an expeditious disposition of the proceeding”

The proposed amendments would revise § 3010.302(e)(12) to clarify that, by consent, parties may use informal off-the-record procedures consistent with the APA to expedite resolution of proceedings without compromising on-the-record adjudications. The proposed amendments would also revise the Commission's rules to clarify that informal off-the-record procedures are consistent with the Commission's *ex parte* rules as long as certain requirements are met.

II. Basis of Proposed Rules

Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 503, the Commission proposes two amendments to its rules. First, it proposes revisions

to the Commission's rules of practice and procedure in 39 CFR part 3010, subpart F governing proceedings conducted with an opportunity for a hearing on-the-record. The Commission proposes to amend existing § 3010.302(e)(12) to add a non-exhaustive list of permissible informal off-the-record procedures, including prehearing conferences, technical conferences, settlement conferences, or alternative dispute resolution.

Second, the Commission proposes revisions to the Commission's rules on *ex parte* communications in 39 CFR part 3012. The Commission proposes to amend existing section 3012.2(b)(3) to exclude from the definition of *ex parte* communications informal off-the-record procedures associated with on-the-record proceedings as long as participants receive advanced notice and an opportunity to participate.

The Commission finds that each of these revisions would align the regulations with APA provisions and current law, ensure consistency across the Commission's rules, and avoid any ambiguity regarding on-the-record proceedings.

III. Proposed Rules

List of Subjects

39 CFR Part 3010

Administrative practice and procedure, Confidential business information, Freedom of information, Sunshine Act.

39 CFR Part 3012

Administrative practice and procedure, Courts.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the Commission proposes to amend chapter III of title 39 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

PART 3010—RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

■ 1. The authority citation for part 3010 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 39 U.S.C. 404(d); 503; 504; 3661.

■ 2. Amend § 3010.302 by revising paragraph (e)(12) to read as follows:

§ 3010.302 Prehearing conferences.

* * * * *

(e) * * *

(12) All other matters which would aid in an expeditious disposition of the proceeding, including consent of the parties to use informal off-the-record procedures such as prehearing conferences, technical conferences, settlement conferences, or alternative

dispute resolution consistent with 5 U.S.C. 556.

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PART 3012—EX PARTE RULES

■ 3. The authority citation for part 3012 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5); 503; 504; 3661(c); 3662.

■ 4. Amend § 3012.2 by revising paragraph (b)(3) to read as follows:

§ 3012.2 Definition of ex parte communications.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(3) Communications where advance public notice and an opportunity to participate is provided to all persons participating in the matter before the Commission that occur: during the course of off-the-record technical conferences associated with a matter before the Commission, or communications during the course of off-the-record procedures associated with proceedings with an opportunity for a hearing on-the-record under part 3010, subpart F of this chapter, including without limitation the pre-filing conference for nature of service cases required by § 3020.111 of this chapter; prehearing conferences conducted under § 3010.302(c) of this chapter; settlement conferences under § 3010.320 of this chapter; and alternative dispute resolution and settlement of complaints by informal procedures under § 3022.40 of this chapter.

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By the Commission.

Mallory S. Richards,
Attorney-Advisor.

[FR Doc. 2026-02591 Filed 2-9-26; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[**MB Docket No. 26-29; RM-12016; DA 26-118; FR ID 330275**]

Television Broadcasting Services Norwell, Massachusetts

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: In this document the Federal Communications Commission's (Commission) proposes to modify the Table of TV Allotments (table) of its rules by substituting channel 10 for 36

¹ Administrative Procedure Act, Public Law 79-404, § 6, 60 Stat. 237 (1946) (codified in 5 U.S.C. 551-559 and 701-706).

at Norwell, Massachusetts in response to a Petition for Rulemaking filed by RNN Boston License Co., LLC (RNN or Petitioner), the licensee of WWDP(TV) (WWDP or Station) channel 10, Norwell, Massachusetts (Norwell). In support of its channel substitution request, the Petitioner asserts that allowing the Station to remain on the air and continue to provide service to viewers within its service area. Given that RNN proposes to utilize its currently licensed parameters, we believe that channel 10 can be substituted for channel 36 at Norwell as proposed, in compliance with the principal community coverage and technical requirements.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before March 12, 2026 and reply comments on or before March 27, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Pursuant to §§ 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates indicated on the first page of this document. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). You may submit comments, identified by [docket number and/or rulemaking number], by any of the following methods:

- *Electronic Filers:* Comments may be filed electronically using the internet by accessing the ECFS: <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs>.

- *Paper Filers:* Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing.

- Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial courier, or by the U.S. Postal Service. *All filings must be addressed to the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.*

- Hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary are accepted between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. by the FCC's mailing contractor at 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes and boxes must be disposed of before entering the building.

- Commercial courier deliveries (any deliveries not by the U.S. Postal Service) must be sent to 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701.

- Filings sent by U.S. Postal Service First-Class Mail, Priority Mail, and Priority Mail Express must be sent to 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554.

- *People with Disabilities:* To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an email to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shaun Maher, Media Bureau, at Shaun.Maher@fcc.gov, (202) 418-2324, or Mark Colombo, Media Bureau, at Mark.Colombo@fcc.gov, (202) 418-7611.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, in MB Docket No. 26-29; RM-12016; DA 26-118, adopted and released on February 5, 2026. The full text of this document is available online at <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-118A1.pdf>.

This document does not contain information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. In addition, therefore, it does not contain any proposed information collection burden "for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees," pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, Public Law 107-198, *see* 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(4). Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, 5 U.S.C. 601-612, do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited from the time a notice of proposed rulemaking is issued to the time the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, *see* 47 CFR 1.1208. There are, however, exceptions to this prohibition, which can be found in § 1.1204(a) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.1204(a). *See* 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420 of the Commission's rules for information regarding the proper filing procedures for comments.

Providing Accountability Through Transparency Act: The Providing Accountability Through Transparency Act, Public Law 118-9, requires each agency, in providing notice of a rulemaking, to post online a brief plain-language summary of the proposed rule. The required summary of this notice of proposed rulemaking is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/proposed-rulemakings>.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Television.

Federal Communications Commission.

Thomas Horan,

Chief of Staff, Media Bureau.

Proposed Rule

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communications Commission proposes to amend 47 CFR part 73 as follows:

PART 73—RADIO BROADCAST SERVICES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 73 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 47 U.S.C. 154, 155, 301, 303, 307, 309, 310, 334, 336, 339.

■ 2. In § 73.622, in the table in paragraph (j), under Massachusetts, revise the entry for "Norwell" to read as follows:

§ 73.622 Digital television table of allotments.

| * * * * * | | | | |
|----------------------|--|--|--|-------------|
| (j) * * * | | | | |
| Community | | | | Channel No. |
| * * * * * | | | | * |
| Massachusetts | | | | |
| * * * * * | | | | * |
| Norwell | | | | 10 |
| * * * * * | | | | * |
| * * * * * | | | | |

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