

PUBLIC NOTICE

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MASS MEDIA BUREAU EXTENDS FILING DEADLINE FOR CLASS A LICENSE APPLICATIONS

On April 4, 2000, the Commission released a *Report and Order* establishing a Class A television service to implement the Community Broadcasters Protection Act of 1999 (CBPA). Pursuant to the CBPA and the Commission's rules, a low power television licensee may convert the secondary status of its station to the new Class A status, provided it can satisfy certain statutorily-established criteria. Licensees intending to seek Class A designation were to file a certification of eligibility with the Commission no later than January 28, 2000. According to the *Report and Order*, LPTV licensees that filed timely certifications of eligibility, other than those licensed to operate on a channel above channel 51, would be allowed to file Class A applications up to 6 months after the effective date of the rules adopted in the Order. The Commission found the 6 month deadline for filing a Class A application to be a reasonable time frame that would afford all LPTV stations, including those who must file displacement applications, adequate time to prepare and file their Class A applications consistent with the adopted rules. Because the rules took effect on June 9, 2000, the 6-month application period ends on December 11, 2000.

The Commission has received several petitions for reconsideration of the *Report and Order*. In order to give eligible LPTV licensees adequate time to prepare and file their Class A applications consistent with any clarifications or rule changes that may be adopted on reconsideration, we have decided to extend the filing deadline until the issues raised by the petitioners have been resolved. By this Public Notice, the deadline for the filing of Class A applications by eligible LPTV stations is extended to 90 days after release of the Order on Reconsideration.

For further information, contact Hossein Hashemzadeh or James Brown at (202) 418-1600, in the Mass Media Bureau.

By: Chief, Mass Media Bureau