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DA 00-661

March 24, 2000

DISMISSAL OF FEE DELINQUENT OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS

The Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) has been accepting only electronically filed applications for Certification since October 5, 1999. Many applicants are not paying the processing fee and submitting the required exhibits for these electronic applications on a timely basis. Several weeks often elapse between the filing of the electronic application (731) form and the receipt of the processing fee or the required exhibits. These practices are causing unnecessary delays in the processing of applications for equipment authorization.

An application for equipment authorization requires the payment of the fee listed in Section 1.1103 of the FCC Rules for that type of equipment. If a paper application was received without a fee payment, it would be dismissed and returned to the applicant because the fee is delinquent. With electronic filing, the fee is paid separately from the application either on-line via credit card or via paper submitted to Equipment Approval Services. If the fee is paid promptly and correctly, the payment can be tracked via computer. However, if the fee is not paid promptly or is paid incorrectly, the payment must be tracked manually. Manual tracking of tardy or incorrect fee payments wastes valuable staff and processing time for all applications.

An application for equipment authorization must also be accompanied by the information described in Section 2.1033 of the FCC Rules. If a paper application was received without this required information, it would be considered incomplete and would be returned to the applicant for resubmission. With electronic filing, it is impossible to return an incomplete application and have it resubmitted. As a result, requesting this required information delays the processing of all applications for equipment authorization.

Accordingly, fifteen days after the date of this Public Notice, the Commission's OET may dismiss any electronic application that has delinquent fees fifteen days after the application (731) form is completed on-line. In addition, this office of the Commission may also dismiss any electronic application that is missing the required information from Section 2.1033 of the Rules five days after the application form is completed on-line. This action should have the following two results: (1) applicants will pay this processing fee promptly, and (2) applicants will file all necessary information promptly and thereby minimize any delays in the processing of equipment authorization applications.