



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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Media Bureau Seeks Comment on Request for Special Relief By Licensee of WSTE-TV, Ponce, Puerto Rico, Seeking Special Unitary License for Multi-Site Transmission Facility

Siete Grande Television, Inc. (Siete Grande), licensee of television station WSTE-TV, Ponce, Puerto Rico has filed a request for a special “unitary” license that would reflect its station’s actual operations. See File No. BMLCT-20020213ABY, Facility ID No. 60341. The station currently utilizes a unique, multi-site transmission facility.

In 1986, the Commission authorized the licensee of WSTE(TV) to construct an experimental broadcast facility in the Ponce, Puerto Rico area, in order to determine whether a system of multiple cochannel transmitters, simultaneously broadcasting, could provide better service in Puerto Rico’s mountainous terrain than the authorized single transmitter. The design utilized an alternate transmitter and three television booster stations, operating at increased power, spaced throughout the island. In 1992, the Commission granted Siete Grande waivers of Sections 73.1675(a) and 74.735(d) of the Rules in order to permit operation of the multi-station facility on a regular basis. *Siete Grande*, 7 FCC Rcd 5299 (1992).

Siete Grande now seeks a special “unitary” license which would cover the auxiliary and booster sites, in lieu of each site having a separate license. This new license would treat the multi-site transmission facility as a collective primary station for both NTSC and DTV licenses. The license would also eliminate the need for the licensee to maintain a separate main transmitter facility in Ponce, which currently must remain turned off to avoid interference with the array. Finally, the “unitary” license would give primary status to the currently secondary booster stations that are part of the multi-site facility.

Comments are due within 30 days of this public notice and reply comments are due 15 days thereafter. An original and one copy of all comments must be filed with the Commission’s Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch, 445 Twelfth Street, S.W., TW A-325, Washington, D.C. 20554. In addition, one copy should be delivered to David Roberts, Video Division, Media Bureau, 445 Twelfth Street, S.W., Room 2-A728, Washington, D.C. 20554.