

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of
Amendment of Section 73.202(b),
Table of Allotments,
FM Broadcast Stations.
(Dexter, Georgia)
MB Docket No. 04-69
RM-10859

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

Adopted: March 12, 2004

Released: March 15, 2004

Comment Date: May 6, 2004

Reply Comment Date: May 21, 2004

By the Assistant Chief, Audio Division:

1. The Audio Division has before it a petition for rule making filed by Broadcast Equities Corp. ("Petitioner") proposing the allotment of Channel 300A to Dexter, Georgia. Petitioner asserts that the adoption of its proposal will result in a preferential arrangement of allotments consistent with the Revision of FM Assignment Policies and Procedures, by providing Dexter, Georgia, an incorporated town with a 2000 U.S. Census population of 509 persons, with its first local aural transmission service. Although the staff returned Petitioner's original petition for rulemaking as unacceptable for consideration because the proposal was short spaced to a licensed facility, the staff has determined that Channel 276A, rather than Channel 300A, can be allotted to Dexter, Georgia, in full compliance with the Commission's technical requirements.

2. A staff analysis has determined that Channel 276A can be allotted to Dexter, Georgia, consistent with the requirements of Sections 73.207(b)(1) and 73.315(a) of the Commission's rules

1 90 FCC 2d 88 (1982). The allotment priorities are: (1) first full-time aural service; (2) second full-time aural service; (3) first local service and (4) other public interest matters. Equal weight is given to priorities (2) and (3).

2 The original petition for rule making was returned because it was short spaced to the licensed facilities for FM Station WHTA, Channel 300C1, Macon, Georgia. Although a construction permit had been issued to allow the station to move to Channel 300C2 at a location that would be fully spaced to Petitioner's proposal, no license had been issued for the facilities proposed. Since the rulemaking petition was contingent on the grant of the license for the facilities specified in the construction permit for Station WHTA, and the Commission does not accept such contingent petitions for rulemaking, the petition was returned. See Cut and Shoot, Texas, 11 FCC Rcd 16383 (1996). Petitioner filed a petition for reconsideration of the staff's return of its original petition for rule making. We also note that FM Station WDBN, Wrightsville, Georgia, has filed an application to upgrade from Channel 298A to Channel 298C3 (BPH-20011003AAO) that conflicts with Petitioner's rulemaking petition to allot Channel 300A to Dexter. We would have to consider that application as a counterproposal to Petitioner's proposal if we were to grant Petitioner's petition for reconsideration and publish a Notice of Proposed Rule Making concerning Petitioner's request for Channel 300A. By proposing to allot Channel 276A to Dexter, we remove Petitioner's conflict with the Station WDBN application and also make it possible to provide a first local FM service to Dexter. As a result of the issuance of this Notice of Proposed Rule Making, we dismiss the petition for reconsideration as moot.

utilizing coordinates of 32-25-59 NL and 83-01-33 WL, with a site restriction of 3.3 kilometers (2.1 miles) east of Dexter.

3. Since allotting Channel 276A to Dexter, Georgia, could provide a first local aural transmission service to Dexter and areas surrounding that city, we believe that it would serve the public interest to solicit comments on the possible allotment of Channel 276A to Dexter, Georgia. Accordingly, we seek comments on the proposed amendment to the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission’s Rules, with respect to Dexter, Georgia, as follows:

	<u>Channel Nos.</u>	
<u>City</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Dexter, Georgia	-----	276A

4. The Commission's authority to institute rule making proceedings, showings required, cut-off procedures, and filing requirements are contained in the attached Appendix and are incorporated by reference herein. In particular, we note that a showing of continuing interest is required by paragraph 2 of the Appendix before a channel will be allotted.

5. Pursuant to Sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission’s rules, interested parties may file comments on or before May 6, 2004, and reply comments on or before May 21, 2004, and are advised to read the Appendix for the proper procedures. Comments should be filed with the Federal Communications Commission, Office of the Secretary, 445 Twelfth Street, SW, TW-A325, Washington, D.C. 20554. Additionally, a copy of such comments should be served on Petitioner’s counsel, as follows:

Dan J. Alpert, Esq.
 The Law Office of Dan J. Alpert
 2120 N. 21st Road
 Arlington, Virginia 22201

6. Parties must file an original and four paper copies of each filing. Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). The Commission’s contractor, Natek, Inc., will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission’s Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Suite 110, Washington, D.C. 20002. The filing hours at this location are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail or Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20554. All filings must be addressed to the Commission’s Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

7. The Commission has determined that the relevant provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to rule making proceedings to amend the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules.³

8. For further information concerning this proceeding, contact R. Barthen Gorman, Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180. For purposes of this restricted notice and comment rule making proceeding, members of the public are advised that no *ex parte* presentations are permitted from the time the Commission adopts a Notice of Proposed Rule Making until the proceeding has been decided and such decision is no longer subject to reconsideration by the Commission or review by any court. An *ex parte* presentation is not prohibited if specifically requested by the Commission or staff for the clarification or adduction of evidence or resolution of issues in the proceeding. However, any new written information elicited from such a request or a summary of any new oral information shall be served by the person making the presentation upon the other parties to the proceeding unless the Commission specifically waives this service requirement.

Any comment, which has not been served on the petitioner, constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding. Any reply comment that has not been served on the person(s) who filed the comment to which the reply is directed, constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

John A. Karousos
Assistant Chief, Audio Division
Media Bureau

Attachment: Appendix

³ See *Certification that Sections 603 and 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act Do Not Apply to Rule Making to Amend Sections 73.202(b) and 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules*, 46 FR 11549, February 9, 1981.

APPENDIX

1. Pursuant to authority contained in Sections 4(i), 5(c)(1), 303(g) and (r), and 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Sections 0.61, 0.204(b) and 0.283 of the Commission's Rules, IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, as set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached.

2. Showings Required. Comments are invited on the proposal discussed in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. Proponent will be expected to answer whatever questions are presented in initial comments. The proponent of a proposed allotment is also expected to file comments even if it only resubmits or incorporates by reference its former pleadings. It should also restate its present intention to apply for the channel if it is allotted and, if authorized, to build a station promptly. Failure to file may lead to denial of the request.

3. Cut-off Procedures. The following procedures will govern the consideration of filings in this proceeding.

(a) Counterproposals advanced in this proceeding itself will be considered, if advanced in initial comments, so that parties may comment on them in reply comments. They will not be considered if advanced in reply comments. (See Section 1.420(d) of the Commission's Rules.)

(b) With respect to petitions for rule making which conflict with the proposal in this Notice, they will be considered as comments in the proceeding, and Public Notice to this effect will be given as long as they are filed before the date for filing initial comments herein. If they are filed later than that, they will not be considered in connection with the decision in this docket.

(c) The filing of a counterproposal may lead the Commission to allot a different channel than was requested for any of the communities involved.

4. Comments and Reply Comments; Service. Pursuant to applicable procedures set out in Sections 1.415 and 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. All submissions by parties to this proceeding or by persons acting on behalf of such parties must be made in written comments, reply comments, or other appropriate pleadings. Comments shall be served on the petitioner by the person filing the comments. Reply comments shall be served on the person who filed comments to which the reply is directed. Such comments and reply comments shall be accompanied by a certificate of service. (See Section 1.420(a), (b) and (c) of the Commission's Rules.) Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554.

5. Number of Copies. In accordance with the provisions of Section 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, an original and four copies of all comments, reply comments, pleadings, briefs, or other documents shall be furnished the Commission.

6. Public Inspection of Filings. All filings made in this proceeding will be available for examination by interested parties during regular business hours in the Commission's Reference Information Center (Room CY-A257), at its headquarters, 445 Twelfth Street, SW, Washington, D.C.