

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

In re Application of)	
)	
John Reynolds)	Facility I.D. No. 30442
)	NAL/Acct. No. MB200641410062
For Renewal of License for)	FRN: 0009598376
FM Translator Station W267AD)	File No. BRFT-20030917AAR
Bryson City, North Carolina)	

**MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER
AND
NOTICE OF APPARENT LIABILITY FOR FORFEITURE**

Adopted: July 25, 2006

Released: July 27, 2006

By the Chief, Media Bureau:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission has before it the captioned application of John Reynolds (the "Licensee") for renewal of his license for FM translator Station W267AD, Bryson City, North Carolina (the "Station"). In this *Memorandum Opinion and Order and Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture* ("NAL") issued pursuant to Sections 309(k) and 503(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act"), and Section 1.80 of the Commission's Rules (the "Rules")¹ by the Chief, Media Bureau by authority delegated under Section 0.283 of the Rules,² we find that the Licensee apparently willfully violated Section 73.3539 of the Rules by failing to timely file a license renewal application for the Station.³ Based upon our review of the facts and circumstances before us, we conclude that the Licensee is apparently liable for a monetary forfeiture in the amount of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500), and we grant the captioned W267AD license renewal application.

II. BACKGROUND

2. Section 73.3539(a) of the Rules requires that applications for renewal of license for broadcast stations must be filed "not later than the first day of the fourth full calendar month prior to the expiration date of the license sought to be renewed."⁴ An application for renewal of W267AD's license should have been filed by August 1, 2003, four months prior to the Station's December 1, 2003, license expiration date,⁵ but was not. However, the Licensee did file the renewal application on September 17, 2003, about 10 weeks before the Station's license expired. The Licensee does not provide an explanation for the untimely filing.

¹ 47 U.S.C. §§ 309(k), 503(b); 47 C.F.R. § 1.80.

² See 47 C.F.R. § 0.283.

³ See 47 C.F.R. § 73.3539.

⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 73.3539(a).

⁵ See 47 C.F.R. §§ 73.1020, 73.3539(a).

III. DISCUSSION

3. *Proposed Forfeiture.* In this case, the Licensee has admitted that it failed to timely file a license renewal application for W267AD, as required by Section 73.3539(a) of the Rules.

4. This *NAL* is issued pursuant to Section 503(b)(1)(B) of the Act. Under that provision, any person who is determined by the Commission to have willfully or repeatedly failed to comply with any provision of the Act or any rule, regulation, or order issued by the Commission shall be liable to the United States for a forfeiture penalty.⁶ Section 312(f)(1) of the Act defines willful as “the conscious and deliberate commission or omission of [any] act, irrespective of any intent to violate” the law.⁷ The legislative history to Section 312(f)(1) of the Act clarifies that this definition of willful applies to both Sections 312 and 503(b) of the Act,⁸ and the Commission has so interpreted the term in the Section 503(b) context.⁹

5. The Commission’s *Forfeiture Policy Statement* and Section 1.80(b)(4) of the Rules establish a base forfeiture amount of \$3,000 for the failure to file a required form.¹⁰ In determining the appropriate forfeiture amount, we must consider the factors enumerated in Section 503(b)(2)(D) of the Act, including “the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violation, and, with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, ability to pay, and such other matters as justice may require.”¹¹

6. In this case, the Licensee failed to timely file the W267AD renewal application but did file prior to the expiration of the Station’s license. Taking into consideration these facts and all of the factors required by Section 503(b)(2)(D) of the Act and the *Forfeiture Policy Statement*, we will reduce the proposed forfeiture for the late filing from the base amount to \$1,500.¹²

7. *License Renewal Application.* In evaluating an application for license renewal, the Commission’s decision is governed by Section 309(k) of the Act.¹³ That section provides that if, upon consideration of the application and pleadings, we find that (1) the Station has served the public interest, convenience, and necessity; (2) there have been no serious violations of the Act or the Rules; and (3) there have been no other violations which, taken together, constitute a pattern of abuse, we are to grant the renewal application.¹⁴ If, however, the licensee fails to meet that standard, the Commission may deny the application – after notice and opportunity for a hearing under Section 309(e) of the Act – or grant the

⁶ 47 U.S.C. § 503(b)(1)(B). *See also* 47 C.F.R. § 1.80(a)(1).

⁷ 47 U.S.C. § 312(f)(1).

⁸ *See* H.R. Rep. No. 97-765, 97th Cong. 2d Sess. 51 (1982).

⁹ *See Southern California Broadcasting Co.*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 6 FCC Rcd 4387, 4388 (1991).

¹⁰ *See Forfeiture Policy Statement and Amendment of Section 1.80(b) of the Rules to Incorporate the Forfeiture Guidelines*, Report and Order, 12 FCC Rcd 17087, 17113-15 (1997) (“*Forfeiture Policy Statement*”), *recon. denied*, 15 FCC Rcd 303 (1999); 47 C.F.R. § 1.80(b)(4), note to paragraph (b)(4), Section I.

¹¹ 47 U.S.C. § 503(b)(2)(D); *see also Forfeiture Policy Statement*, 12 FCC Rcd at 17100; 47 C.F.R. § 1.80(b)(4).

¹² *See Discussion Radio, Inc.*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 19 FCC Rcd 7433 (2004) at ¶ 15.

¹³ 47 U.S.C. § 309(k).

¹⁴ 47 U.S.C. § 309(k)(1). The renewal standard was amended to read as described by Section 204(a) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996). *See Implementation of Sections 204(a) and 204(c) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Broadcast License Renewal Procedures)*, Order, 11 FCC Rcd 6363 (1996).

application "on terms and conditions that are appropriate, including a renewal for a term less than the maximum otherwise permitted."¹⁵

8. We find that the Licensee's apparent violation of Section 73.3539 of the Rules does not constitute a "serious violation" warranting designation for evidentiary hearing. Moreover, we find no evidence of violations that, when considered together, evidence a pattern of abuse.¹⁶ Further, we find that Station W267AD served the public interest, convenience, and necessity during the subject license term. We will therefore grant the license renewal application below.

IV. ORDERING CLAUSES

9. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to Section 503(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Section 1.80 of the Commission's Rules, that John Reynolds is hereby NOTIFIED of his APPARENT LIABILITY FOR FORFEITURE in the amount of \$1,500 for his apparent willful violation of Section 73.3539 of the Commission's Rules.

10. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to Section 1.80 of the Commission's Rules, that, within thirty (30) days of the release date of this NAL, John Reynolds SHALL PAY the full amount of the proposed forfeiture or SHALL FILE a written statement seeking reduction or cancellation of the proposed forfeiture.

11. Payment of the proposed forfeiture must be made by check or similar instrument, payable to the order of the Federal Communications Commission. The payment must include the NAL/Acct. No. and FRN No. referenced above. Payment by check or money order may be mailed to Federal Communications Commission, at P.O. Box 358340, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15251-8340. Payment by overnight mail may be sent to Mellon Bank/LB 358340, 500 Ross Street, Room 1540670, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15251. Payment by wire transfer may be made to ABA Number 043000261, receiving bank Mellon Bank, and account number 911-6106.

12. The response, if any, must be mailed to Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington D.C. 20554, ATTN: Peter H. Doyle, Chief, Audio Division, Media Bureau, and MUST INCLUDE the NAL/Acct. No. referenced above.

13. The Commission will not consider reducing or canceling a forfeiture in response to a claim of inability to pay unless the respondent submits: (1) federal tax returns for the most recent three-year period; (2) financial statements prepared according to generally accepted accounting practices ("GAAP"); or (3) some other reliable and objective documentation that accurately reflects the respondent's current financial status. Any claim of inability to pay must specifically identify the basis for the claim by reference to the financial documentation submitted.

¹⁵ 47 U.S.C. §§ 309(k)(2), 309(k)(3).

¹⁶ For example, we do not find here that the Licensee's Station operation "was conducted in an exceedingly careless, inept and negligent manner and that the licensee is either incapable of correcting or unwilling to correct the operating deficiencies." *Heart of the Black Hills Stations*, 32 FCC 2d 196, 198 (1971). Nor do we find on the record here that "the number, nature and extent" of the violations indicate that "the licensee cannot be relied upon to operate [the Station] in the future in accordance with the requirements of its licenses and the Commission's Rules." *Heart of the Black Hills Stations*, 32 FCC 2d at 200. See also *Center for Study and Application of Black Economic Development*, 6 FCC Rcd 4622 (1991) and *Calvary Educational Broadcasting Network, Inc.*, 7 FCC Rcd 4037 (1992).

14. Requests for full payment of the forfeiture proposed in this *NAL* under the installment plan should be sent to: Associate Managing Director - Financial Operations, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room 1-A625, Washington, D.C. 20554.¹⁷

15. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to Section 309(k) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, the license renewal application of John Reynolds for Station W267AD, Bryson City, North Carolina (File No. BRFT-20030917AAR) IS GRANTED.

16. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that copies of this *NAL* shall be sent, by First Class and Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, to John Reynolds, Station W267AD, 116 Mary Miles Drive, Danville, Virginia 24540 and to his counsel, Lauren A. Colby, Esquire, Law Office of Lauren A. Colby, 10 E. Fourth Street, P.O. Box 113, Frederick, Maryland 21705-0113.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Donna C. Gregg
Chief, Media Bureau

¹⁷ See 47 C.F.R. § 1.1914.