

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

In the Matter of)	
)	
Amendment of Section 73.202(b))	MB Docket No. 16-422
FM Table of Allotments,)	RM-11783
FM Broadcast Stations.)	
(Fort Walton Beach, Florida))	

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Adopted: February 2, 2017

Released: February 3, 2017

Comments Date: March 27, 2017

Reply Comments Date: April 11, 2017

By the Assistant Chief, Audio Division, Media Bureau:

1. The Audio Division has before it a Petition for Rulemaking (Petition) filed by Northwest Florida Media, LLC (Petitioner), proposing to amend the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission’s rules, by allotting Channel 295A at Fort Walton Beach, Florida. In compliance with Commission procedures,¹ Petitioner has concurrently filed an FCC Form 301 application and paid the necessary filing fees.²

2. **Background.** Petitioner proposes the allotment of Channel 295A at Fort Walton Beach, Florida, as a sixth local service.³ Fort Walton Beach is an incorporated community with a 2010 U.S. Census population of 19,507 persons. Fort Walton Beach has a Mayor and a seven-member City Council. The community has a library, several museums, and numerous businesses and places of worship. Petitioner contends that the proposed new station would provide a new aural service to 170,196 persons. Petitioner states that if the allotment is made it will prosecute its application, participate in the auction, and promptly construct the authorized facilities.

3. **Discussion.** The proposed change in the FM Table of Allotment warrants consideration because it would provide a sixth local service at Fort Walton Beach, Florida. A staff engineering analysis indicates that Channel 295A can be allotted to Fort Walton Beach, consistent with the minimum distance separation requirements of the Commission’s rules without a site restriction. The reference coordinates are 30-24-40 NL and 86-37-28 WL. Accordingly, we seek comments on the proposed amendment to the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the rules, with respect to Fort Walton Beach, Florida:

¹ *Revision of Procedures Governing Amendments to FM Table of Allotments and Changes of Community of License in the Radio Broadcast Services*, Report and Order, 21 FCC Rcd 14212, 14223, para. 18 (2006).

² See File No. BNPB-20161122ABD.

³ Stations WFTW(AM), WFDM(AM), WZNS(FM), WKSM(FM), and WPSM(FM) are currently licensed at Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

<u>Community</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Fort Walton Beach, Florida	----	295A

4. The Commission's authority to institute rulemaking 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 in 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,⁴ interested parties may file comments on or before March 27, 2017, and reply comments on or before April 11, 2017, and are advised to read the *Appendix* for the proper procedures. Comments should be filed with the Federal Communications Commission. Additionally, a copy of any filing should be served on counsel for Petitioner, as follows:

David D. Burns, Esq.
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
1200 Seventeenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

6. Parties must file an original and one copy of each filing.⁵ 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 will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary at the FCC Headquarters Building located at 445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-A325, Washington, D.C. 20554. The filing hours at this location are Monday through Friday, 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, Maryland 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to FCC Headquarters at 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554. Alternatively, parties may submit the filing electronically at <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/>. Online filing is optional. Participants that file comments and replies in electronic form need only submit one copy of those comments, so long as the submission conforms to any procedural or filing requirements established for formal electronic comments.⁶ **All filings must be addressed to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, and Office of the Secretary. Any paper filing that is not addressed to the Office of the Secretary will be treated as filed on the day it is received in the Office of the Secretary.**⁷ **Accordingly, failure to follow the specified requirements may result in the treatment of a filing as untimely.**

7. The Commission has determined that the relevant provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to a rulemaking proceeding to amend the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's rules.⁸ This document does not contain proposed information collection

⁴ 47 C.F.R. §§1.415 and 1.419.

⁵ *Amendment of Certain of the Commission's Part 1 Rules of Practice and Procedure and Part 0 Rules of Commission Reorganization*, GC Docket No. 10-44, Report and Order, 26 FCC Rcd 1594, 1602, para. 21 (2011).

⁶ 47 C.F.R. § 1.419(d).

⁷ *Id.* at § 1.7.

⁸ *Certification that Section 603 and 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Do Not Apply to Rulemaking to Amend Sections 73.202(b), 73.504 and 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules*, 46 FR 11549 (Feb. 9, 1981).

requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. In addition, therefore, it does not contain any proposed information collection burden “for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees,” pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, Public Law 107-198.⁹

8. For further information concerning these proceedings, contact Rolanda F. Smith, Media Bureau, at (202) 418-2700. For purposes of these restricted notice and comment rulemaking proceedings, members of the public are advised that no *ex parte* presentations are permitted from the time the Commission adopts a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* until the proceeding has been decided and such decision in the applicable docket 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 any summary of any new information shall be served by the person making the presentation upon the other parties to the proceeding in the particular docket 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 which 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 this proceeding.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Nazifa Sawez
Assistant Chief
Audio Division
Media Bureau

⁹ 44 U.S.C. § 3506(c)(4).

APPENDIX

1. Pursuant to authority found in 47 U.S.C. Sections 4(i), 5(c)(1), 303(g) and (r), and 307(b), and 47 C.F.R. Sections 0.61, 0.204(b) and 0.283, IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND the FM Table of Allotments, 47 C.F.R. Section 73.202(b), as set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to which this *Appendix* is attached.

2. Showings Required. Comments are invited on the proposal(s) discussed in the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to which this *Appendix* is attached. Proponent(s) will be expected to answer whatever questions are presented in initial comments. The proponent of a proposed allotment is required to file comments expressing the proponent's continuing interest in the proposed allotment and restating 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 protection. 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. 47 C.F.R. § 1.420(d).

(b) Petitions for rulemaking which conflict with the proposals in this *Notice* 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 47 C.F.R. Sections 1.415 and 1.420, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* 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. The person filing the comments shall serve comments on the Petitioner. Reply comments shall be served on the person(s) who filed comments to which the reply is directed. A certificate of service shall accompany such comments and reply comments (*see* 47 C.F.R. Section 1.420(a), (b) and (c)). Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. Alternatively, parties may submit the filing electronically at <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/>. Online filing is optional.

5. Number of Copies. In accordance with the provisions of 47 C.F.R. Section 1.419(b), an original and one copy of all comments, reply comments, pleadings, briefs, or other documents shall be furnished the Commission. Participants that file comments and replies in electronic form need only submit one copy of those comments, so long as the submission conforms to any procedural or filing requirements established for formal electronic comments. 47 C.F.R. § 1.419(d).

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, at its headquarters, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, DC. All filings are also available at <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/>.