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MEDIA BUREAU LIFTS THE FREEZE ON THE FILING OF MINOR MODIFICATION APPLICATIONS THAT EXPAND THE CONTOUR OF FULL POWER AND CLASS A TELEVISION STATIONS FOR CERTAIN REPACKED STATIONS, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

MB Docket No. 16-306 GN Docket No. 12-268

The Media Bureau hereby lifts the freeze imposed on April 5, 2013 on the filing and processing of minor modification applications that would increase a full power television station's noise-limited contour or a Class A station's protected contour in one or more directions beyond the station's authorized facilities.¹ This action is limited to full power and Class A television stations that were reassigned to new channels as part of the incentive auction and repacking process and have not yet completed the transition to their post-auction channels. This action promotes administrative efficiency and facilitates the post-incentive auction transition because it relieves repacked stations of the need to request a waiver of the 2013 freeze to complete the station's transition in circumstances where, for instance, an antenna manufacturer is unable to exactly match the station's authorized antenna pattern, or the authorized height of the antenna on the station's tower differs slightly from the actual installed height of the antenna. Accordingly, the freeze is lifted for these stations, and the freeze remains in place for all other stations. Minor modification applications will be processed on a first come/first served basis, i.e., the filing of an acceptable application "cuts-off" the filing rights of subsequent, conflicting applications.²

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¹ Media Bureau Announces Limitations on the Filing and Processing of Full Power and Class A Television Station Modification Applications, Effective Immediately, and Reminds Stations of Spectrum Act Preservation Mandate, Public Notice, 28 FCC Rcd 4364 (MB 2013).

² 47 CFR § 73.623(b).