

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

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition	)	MB Docket No. 21-59
Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast	)	RM-11883
Stations (Corpus Christi, Texas)	)	

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

**Adopted: February 22, 2021**

**Released: February 22, 2021**

By the Chief, Video Division, Media Bureau:

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Video Division has before it a petition for rulemaking filed February 11, 2021 by Scripps Broadcasting Holdings, LLC (Scripps or the Petitioner), the licensee of KRIS-TV (NBC), channel 13, Corpus Christi, Texas.<sup>1</sup> Scripps requests the substitution of channel 26 for channel 13 at Corpus Christi, Texas, in the DTV Table of Allotments.<sup>2</sup>

**II. BACKGROUND**

2. In support of its channel substitution request, Scripps states while not all stations have VHF reception problems, the Commission has recognized that VHF channels have certain propagation characteristics which may cause reception issues for some viewers, and also that the “reception of VHF signals require larger antennas . . . relative to UHF channels.”<sup>3</sup> According to Scripps, it “has received numerous complaints from viewers living in the Corpus Christi Designated Market Area complaining that they are unable to receive the KRIS signal on Channel 13,” and that despite the fact that “KRIS technical staff has tried to work with these callers to resolve their problems, [it] is apparent that the Station’s digital Channel 13 signal is not providing these viewers with the quality service” that other UHF stations provide.<sup>4</sup> Scripps further states that while there is a small terrain limited predicted loss area when comparing the licensed channel 13 and the proposed channel 26 facilities, all but 15 people living within

<sup>1</sup> Petition of Scripps Broadcasting Holdings, LLC for Rulemaking (filed Feb. 11, 2021), LMS File No. 0000136133 (Petition).

<sup>2</sup> On April 13, 2017, the Commission completed the incentive auction and broadcast television spectrum repacking authorized by the Spectrum Act. See Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, Pub. L. No. 112-96, §§ 6402 (codified at 47 U.S.C. § 309(j)(8)(G)), 6403 (codified at 47 U.S.C. § 1452), 126 Stat. 156 (2012) (Spectrum Act); *Incentive Auction Closing and Channel Reassignment Public Notice: The Broadcast Television Incentive Auction Closes; Reverse Auction and Forward Auction Results Announced; Final Television Band Channel Assignments Announced; Post-Auction Deadlines Announced*, GN Docket No. 12-268, Public Notice, 32 FCC Rcd 2786 (2017). The post-incentive auction transition period ended on July 13, 2020. The Media Bureau will amend the rules to reflect all new full power channel assignments in a revised Table of Allotments. Because the Table has not yet been amended, the Division will continue to refer to the Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, 47 CFR § 73.622(i) (2018), for the purpose of this proceeding.

<sup>3</sup> Petition at 2, citing *Innovation in the Broadcast Television Bands: Allocations, Channel Sharing and Improvements to VHF*, ET Docket No. 10-235, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 25 FCC Rcd 16498, 16511, para. 42 (2010) and *Amendment of Parts 73 and 74 of the Commission’s Rules to Establish Rules for Digital Low Power Television, Television Translator, and Television Booster Stations and to Amend Rules for Digital Class A Television Stations*, MB Docket No. 03-185, Second Report and Order, 25 FCC Rcd 10732, 10750, para. 37 (2011).

<sup>4</sup> Petition at 2-3; Engineering Statement at 1-2.

the predicted loss area will continue to be well served, a number which the Commission has recognized as *de minimis*.<sup>5</sup>

3. Scripps also states that the timing of the channel change is important. Scripps explains that in April 2020, high winds generated during a storm caused the Scripps owned tower supporting the KRIS-TV antenna to collapse.<sup>6</sup> According to Scripps, while it fully intends to build a new channel 13 facility within a year after the station went silent,<sup>7</sup> it would prefer to build out a new UHF facility which can significantly improve the off-air reception of KRIS-TV, an option that only became possible when the Commission lifted the freeze on channel changes at the end of 2020.<sup>8</sup>

### III. DISCUSSION

4. We believe that the Scripps's channel substitution proposal warrants consideration. Channel 26 can be substituted for channel 13 at Corpus Christi, Texas, as proposed, in compliance with the principal community coverage requirements of section 73.625(a) of the Commission's rules (rules)<sup>9</sup> at coordinates 27-45-32.9 N and 97-36-27.3 W. Since the proposed facility is located within the Mexican coordination zone, concurrence from the Mexican government must be obtained for this allotment. In addition, we find that this channel change meets the technical requirements set forth in sections 73.616 and 73.623 of the rules.<sup>10</sup> We propose to substitute channel 26 for channel 13 for KRIS-TV with the following specifications:

<u>City and State</u>	<u>DTV Channel</u>	<u>DTV Power (kW)</u>	<u>Antenna HAAT (m)</u>
Corpus Christi, Texas	26	1000	294.8

5. Accordingly, we seek comment on the proposed amendment of the Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, section 73.622(i) of the rules,<sup>11</sup> for the community listed below, to read as follows:

Channel No.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 3-4, citing *WSET, Inc.*, 80 FCC 2d 233, 246 (1980) (Population loss of less than 500 persons can be disregarded as *de minimis*.); *see also* Engineering Statement at 4-5. The small loss population will continue to receive service from KIII, Corpus Christi, and KVCT and KAVU-TV, Victoria, Texas. An additional 3,339 persons will also gain new service. Engineering Statement at 5.

<sup>6</sup> Engineering Statement at 2.

<sup>7</sup> We remind Scripps that Section 312(g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, provides, in part, that "If a broadcasting station fails to transmit broadcast signals for any consecutive 12-month period, then the station license expires at the end of that period, notwithstanding any provision, term, or condition of the license to the contrary [except for certain specified exceptions] or for any other reason to promote equity or fairness." 47 U.S.C. § 312(g). The Commission has exercised its authority to reinstate an expired license to "promote equity and fairness" only where the station failed to provide service for 12 consecutive months due to compelling reasons beyond the licensee's control. *See, e.g., V.I. Stereo Communications Corp.*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 21 FCC Rcd 14259 (2006); *Community Bible Church*, Letter, 23 FCC Rcd 15012, 15014 (MB 2008); *Mark Chapman, Court-Appointed Agent*, Letter, 22 FCC Rcd 6578 (MB 2007). The Commission has declined to reinstate licenses where the failure to transmit a broadcast signal was due to the licensee's own actions, finances, and/or business judgment. *See, e.g., A-O Broadcasting*, Letter, 23 FCC Rcd 615, 617 (MB 2008); *ETC Communications, Inc.*, Letter, 25 FCC Rcd 10686 (MB 2010); *Kirby Young*, Letter, 23 FCC Rcd 35 (MB 2008).

<sup>8</sup> Engineering Statement at 2; *see also Media Bureau Lifts Freeze on the Filing of Television Station Minor Modification Applications and Rulemaking Petitions Effective Fifteen Days After Publication in the Federal Register*, Public Notice, DA 20-1269 (rel. Oct. 29, 2020). This action was effective on November 27, 2020. *See* 85 FR 73706 (Nov. 19, 2020).

<sup>9</sup> 47 CFR § 73.625(a).

<sup>10</sup> 47 CFR §§ 73.616, 73.623.

<sup>11</sup> 47 CFR § 73.622(i).

<u>City and State</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Corpus Christi, Texas	8, 10, 13, *23, 27, 38	8, 10, *23, 26, 27, 38

#### IV. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

6. *Showings Required.* Comments are invited on the proposal discussed in this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (*NPRM*). The Petitioner or any proponent that expresses interest in the allotment will be expected to answer whatever questions are presented in initial comments. The petitioner of a proposed allotment is required to file comments even if it only resubmits or incorporates by reference its former pleadings. The petitioner must restate its present intention to apply for the channel if it is allotted and, if authorized, to build a station promptly.<sup>12</sup> Failure to file may lead to denial of the request. Any requests by a proponent for withdrawal or dismissal of an allotment request must be filed with the Commission in accordance with section 1.420(j) of the rules.<sup>13</sup>

7. *Cut-off Protection.* The following procedures will govern the consideration of the 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.<sup>14</sup>
- (b) The filing of a counterproposal may lead the Commission to allot a different channel than was requested in the Petition.<sup>15</sup>

8. *Comments and Reply Comments.* Pursuant to sections 1.415, 1.419, and 1.420 of the rules,<sup>16</sup> interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates indicated on the first page of this document. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).<sup>17</sup>

- **Electronic Filers:** Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/>. Parties that choose to file electronically only need to submit one copy of each filing so long as the submission conforms to all procedural and filing requirements. Online filing is optional.
- **Paper Filers:** Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy 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. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission. 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. Accordingly, failure to follow the specified requirements may result in the treatment of a filing as untimely.
  - Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701.
  - U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail must be addressed to 45 L

<sup>12</sup> See, e.g., *Buffalo, Iola, Normangee, and Madisonville, Texas*, MB Docket No. 07-729, Report and Order, 24 FCC Rcd 8192, 8194, para. 9 (Aud. Div. 2009).

<sup>13</sup> 47 CFR § 1.420(j).

<sup>14</sup> 47 CFR §1.420(d).

<sup>15</sup> 47 CFR § 1.420(g)(2).

<sup>16</sup> 47 CFR §§ 1.415, 1.419, and 1.420.

<sup>17</sup> See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121 (1998).

Street, NE, Washington DC 20554.

- Effective March 19, 2020, and until further notice, the Commission no longer accepts any hand or messenger delivered filings. This is a temporary measure taken to help protect the health and safety of individuals, and to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19.<sup>18</sup>
- During the time the Commission's building is closed to the general public and until further notice, if more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of a proceeding, paper filers need not submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number; an original and one copy are sufficient.

*Service.* Pursuant section 1.420 of the rules,<sup>19</sup> 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 petitioners. 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.<sup>20</sup> Additionally, a copy of such comments should be served on counsel for petitioner, as follows:

Christina H. Burrows, Esq.  
Cooley, LLP  
1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

9. *Ex Parte Notices– Restricted.* The proceeding this Notice initiates shall be treated as a “restricted” proceeding in accordance with the Commission’s *ex parte* rules.<sup>21</sup> For purposes of this restricted notice and comment rulemaking proceeding, 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.<sup>22</sup> 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.<sup>23</sup> 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 a particular docket unless the Commission specifically waives this service requirement.<sup>24</sup> Any comment that 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 the proceeding.

10. *Availability of Documents.* Comments, reply comments, and *ex parte* submissions will

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<sup>18</sup> See *FCC Announces Closure of FCC Headquarters Open Window and Change in Hand-Delivery Policy*, Public Notice, 35 FCC Rcd 2788 (2020).

<sup>19</sup> 47 CFR § 1.420.

<sup>20</sup> See 47 CFR §1.420(a), (b) and (c).

<sup>21</sup> 47 CFR §§ 1.1200 *et seq.*

<sup>22</sup> 47 CFR § 1.1208.

<sup>23</sup> 47 CFR § 1.1204(a)(10).

<sup>24</sup> 47 CFR § 1.1204(a)(10)(ii). In addition, an oral presentation in a restricted proceeding not designated for hearing requesting action by a particular date or giving reasons that a proceeding should be expedited other than the need to avoid administrative delay is permitted. A detailed summary of the presentation must be filed in the record and served by the person making the presentation on the other parties to the proceeding, who may respond in support or opposition to the request for expedition, including by oral *ex parte* presentation, subject to the same service requirement. 47 CFR § 1.1204(a)(11).

be available for public inspection via ECFS (<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/>). Documents will be available electronically in ASCII, Microsoft Word, and/or Adobe Acrobat.

11. *Paperwork Reduction and Regulatory Flexibility.* The Commission has determined that the relevant provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, as amended,<sup>25</sup> do not apply to a rulemaking proceeding to amend the DTV Table of Allotments, section 73.622(i) of the rules.<sup>26</sup> This document does not contain proposed information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.<sup>27</sup> 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.<sup>28</sup>

12. *People with Disabilities.* To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to [fcc504@fcc.gov](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (tty).

13. *Additional Information.* For further information concerning the proceeding listed above, contact Joyce Bernstein, Video Division, Media Bureau, (202) 418-1647, [Joyce.Bernstein@fcc.gov](mailto:Joyce.Bernstein@fcc.gov).

## V. ORDERING CLAUSES

14. **IT IS ORDERED** that, pursuant to authority found in 47 U.S.C. sections 4(i), 5(c)(1), 303(g) and (r), and 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 155(c)(1), 303(g), (r), and 307(b) and sections 0.61, 0.204(b), and 0.283 of the rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.61, 0.204(b), and 0.283, **IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND** the Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, section 73.622(i) of the rules, 47 CFR § 73.622(i), as set forth in this *NPRM*, and this *NPRM IS ADOPTED*.

15. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, pursuant to applicable procedures set forth in sections 1.415, 1.419, 1.420 of the rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.415, 1.419, and 1.420, interested parties may file comments, including counterproposals, on the *NPRM* in MB Docket No. 21-59 and RM-11883 on or before fifteen (15) days after publication in the Federal Register and reply comments on or before twenty five (25) days after publication in the Federal Register.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Barbara A. Kreisman  
Chief, Video Division  
Media Bureau

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<sup>25</sup> See 5 U.S.C. § 603. The RFA, *see* 5 U.S.C. § 601 *et seq.*, has been amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (SBREFA), Pub. L. No. 104-121, Title II, 110 Stat. 857 (1996). The SBREFA was enacted as Title II of the Contract with America Advancement Act of 1996 (CWAAA).

<sup>26</sup> 47 CFR § 73.622(i).

<sup>27</sup> See 44 U.S.C. §§ 3501-3520.

<sup>28</sup> See 44 U.S.C. § 3506(c)(4).