



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DA 24-270

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WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU SEEKS COMMENT ON WATTS BAR MARITIME AND AMATEUR RADIO SCHOOL'S COMMERCIAL OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATION MANAGER APPLICATION

WT Docket No. 24-89

Comments Due: April 17, 2024

Reply Comments Due: May 2, 2024

By this Public Notice, we seek comment on an application from Watts Bar Maritime and Amateur Radio School (WBMARS) seeking certification as a Commercial Operator License Examination Manager (COLEM).¹ On January 14, 1993, the Commission privatized the administration of license examinations for Commercial Radio Operators and delegated authority to the Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau to certify private entities to be COLEMs.² There are currently twelve entities certified by the Commission as COLEMs.³

When applying to serve as a COLEM, an entity must submit an application that complies with the prescribed COLEM application requirements.⁴ On January 29, 2024, Dr. William Ofray, the Chairman of WBMARS, filed an application seeking certification for WBMARS to serve as a COLEM.⁵ In the application, WBMARS asserts that examinations will be offered upon request and administered on-site or remotely in almost all U.S. states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands beginning within 10 days following approval of his application, if granted.⁶

The Bureau seeks comment on WBMARS's application. Interested parties may file comments on or before the dates indicated on the first page of this document.

¹ Petition of Watts Bar Maritime and Amateur Radio School, INBOX-1.41, at 1–2 (filed Jan. 29, 2024), <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/10129839326196/1> (WBMARS Application).

² *Amendment of Part 13 of the Commission's Rules to Privatize the Administration of Examinations for Commercial Operator Licenses and to Clarify Certain Rules*, FO Docket No. 92-206, Report and Order, 8 FCC Rcd 1046 (1993).

³ FCC, *Commercial Operator License Examination Managers (COLEMs) and Fees*, <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/bureau-divisions/mobility-division/commercial-radio-operator-license-program/commercial> (last updated May 5, 2023).

⁴ *Commission Opens Filing Window for Commercial Operator License Examination Managers*, DA 93-407, Public Notes, 8 FCC Rcd 2570 (1993).

⁵ WBMARS Application at 1–2.

⁶ *Id.* at 1–2. WBMARS's application lists representation in all states, except for Florida and Virginia. *Id.* at 1.

Procedural Matters

To develop a complete record on the issues presented by the Application, the proceeding will be treated, for *ex parte* purposes, as a “permit-but-disclose” proceeding in accordance with section 1.1200(a) of the Commission’s rules, subject to the requirements under section 1.1206(b). We have opened a new docket, **WT Docket No. 24-89**, to facilitate consideration of the Application and have moved WBMARS’s Application into this docket. Parties should file all comments and reply comments in **WT Docket No. 24-89**.

Filing Requirements. Pursuant to sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission’s rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.415, 1.419, 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).⁷

- Electronic Filers: Comments may be filed electronically using the internet by accessing ECFS: <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/>.
- Paper Filers: Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing.
- Filings can be sent 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.
 - 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 Street NE, Washington, D.C. 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-19.⁸

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 or call the Consumer & Government Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (tty).

Additional Information. For further information regarding this Public Notice, please contact Christine Parola, Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at Christine.Parola@fcc.gov.

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⁷ See Federal Communications Commission, Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings, 63 Fed. Reg. 24121 (June 30, 1998).

⁸ See *FCC Announces Closure of FCC Headquarters Open Window and Change in Hand-Delivery Policy*, DA 20-304, Public Notice, 35 FCC Rcd 2788 (Mar. 19, 2020), <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-closes-headquarters-open-window-and-changes-hand-delivery-policy>.