



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

News Media Information 202-418-0500
Internet: www.fcc.gov

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MEDIA BUREAU ANNOUNCES A PHASED RESUMPTION OF FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR MAJOR CHANGES FOR CLASS A, LPTV, AND TV TRANSLATOR STATIONS AND APPLICATIONS FOR NEW LPTV AND TV TRANSLATOR STATIONS

By this Public Notice, the Media Bureau (Bureau) announces that, beginning today, the Commission is initiating a phased process to lift the current freeze on major changes for Class A television, low power television (LPTV), and television (TV) translator stations, in its entirety, and permit the filing of applications for new LPTV and TV translator stations.¹ Outlined below are the dates relating to the phased process and procedures that applicants must follow when filing during these opportunities. The Appendix outlines instructions for filing applications in LMS.

Summary of Important Dates:

September 3, 2025
11:59 p.m. ET

Temporary application filing freeze for all major change applications for Class A, LPTV, and TV Translator stations.

October 15, 2025
6:00 p.m. ET

Temporary application filing freeze for all minor change applications (including displacement applications) for Class A, LPTV, and TV translator stations.

October 22, 2025
12:01 a.m. ET

Expanded opportunity for Class A, LPTV, and TV translator stations to file major change applications, with relocations limited to no more than 121.0 kilometers (km). Freeze on all minor change applications (including displacement applications) for Class A, LPTV, and TV translator stations is also lifted.

December 3, 2025
6:00 p.m. ET

Temporary application filing freeze for all major change applications for Class A, LPTV, and TV translator stations.

January 14, 2026
6:00 p.m. ET

Temporary application filing freeze for all minor change applications (including displacement applications) for Class A, LPTV, and TV translator stations.

¹ The terms “modification(s)” and “change(s)” are used interchangeably in this Public Notice. *See* 47 CFR § 73.3572(a)(2) (defining Class A major changes); 47 CFR § 74.787(b)(1) (defining LPTV and TV translator major changes). All changes not designated as major are considered minor changes. *See* 47 CFR § 73.3572(a)(3) (Class A); 47 CFR § 74.787(b)(2) (LPTV and TV translators).

January 21, 2026
12:01 a.m. ET

Resumption, without limit or restriction, of filing of Class A, LPTV and TV translator major change applications and acceptance of applications for new LPTV and TV translators stations. Freeze on minor change applications (including displacement applications) for Class A, LPTV, and TV translator stations is also lifted.

Phase 1: Temporary Major and Minor Modification Filing Freezes

While most major modifications are currently frozen, in August 2024 the Bureau lifted its freeze on major modifications, with certain restrictions, in order to permit Class A, LPTV, and TV translator stations to file for channel changes.² **Effective at 11:59 p.m. ET, today – September 3, 2025**, the Bureau is reinstituting a freeze on all applications for major changes for Class A, LPTV, and TV translator stations. In addition, **at 6:00 p.m. ET, October 15, 2025**, the Bureau will institute a freeze on all minor change applications for Class A, LPTV, and TV translator stations³ and displacement applications for LPTV and TV translator stations.⁴ These freezes are necessary in order to provide a stable database for stations to prepare for the filing of major modification applications, as discussed below. Applicants that file a major or minor modification application during these temporary freezes will be dismissed without consideration and will need to re-file once the freezes are lifted.

Phase 2: Expanded Major Modification Filing Opportunity

In order to allow existing Class A, LPTV, and TV translator stations to modify their facilities to better serve their viewers and adapt to market changes since application freezes were implemented on such changes,⁵ we will provide existing stations an opportunity to file major modification applications prior to new station applications.⁶ **Beginning at 12:01 a.m. ET, October 22, 2025**, the Bureau will lift the major modification application filing freeze and accept, on a first-come, first-served basis, applications for all major changes to Class A, LPTV, and TV translator stations including those that propose relocations of no more than 121.0 km from the station's antenna reference coordinates. **At 12:01**

² See *Media Bureau Announces Commencement of First-Come, First-Served Channel Change Opportunity for Class A Television, LPTV, and TV Translator Stations Beginning on August 20, 2024*, Public Notice, 39 FCC Rcd 5718 (MB 2024) (*Channel Change PN*). In the *Channel Change PN* the Bureau restricted major modifications to channel changes and those that could otherwise be requested in a minor modification application (*i.e.*, facility relocations no greater than 30 miles and that maintain contour overlap. *Id.* at 5718-9.

³ See 47 CFR §§ 73.3572(a)(2) and 74.787(b)(1)(iii).

⁴ See 47 CFR § 74.787(a)(4). Class A stations are not eligible for displacement and will remain ineligible for displacement. See *Freeze on the Filing of Applications for Digital Replacement Translator Stations and Displacement Application*, Public Notice, 29 FCC Rcd 6063 (MB 2014) (finding that displacement eligibility for Class A stations, which were only subject to displacement during the DTV transition for engineering reasons, is no longer necessary).

⁵ See *Freeze on the Filing of Applications for New Digital Low Power Television and TV Translator Stations*, Public Notice, 25 FCC Rcd 15120 (MB 2010); *Initiation of Nationwide First-Come, First-Served Digital Licensing for Low Power Television and TV Translators Postponed Until Further Notice*, Public Notice, 25 FCC Rcd 8179 (MB 2010)(collectively “2010 LPTV Freeze”).

⁶ Consistent with prior Bureau action, we are placing a limit on the parameters of applications that may be filed for a limited period. See *Commencement of Rural First-Come, First-Served Digital Licensing for Low Power Television and TV Translators Beginning August 25, 2009*, Public Notice, 24 FCC Rcd 8911 (2009) (*2009 Rural LPTV PN*) (prohibiting applicants from proposing facilities located within 121 kilometers (75 miles) of the reference coordinates for the top 100 markets); *Channel Change PN*, 39 FCC Rcd at 5718-19 (restricting major changes to channel changes and those that could otherwise be requested in a minor modification application).

a.m. ET, October 22, 2025, the Bureau will also lift the temporary freeze on all minor modification and displacement applications.

We are imposing a distance limit on major changes in order to ensure that existing stations are able to implement facility modifications that maximize service to their existing viewers and markets before we permit new station applications or moves by existing stations that practically amount to a new station (i.e., stations that may seek to forego serving their existing viewers or markets and relocate to distant locations). We believe the 121.0 km distance limit also balances the flexibility needs of existing stations to address changes in the broadcast marketplace over the past 15 years (including their local market), while attempting to preserve service that viewers have come to rely upon to the greatest extent possible. Major change applications submitted during this filing opportunity must comply with the distance limit set forth herein and otherwise comply with the Commission's part 73 and 74 rules.⁷ All other applications will be dismissed and will need to be re-filed.

Phase 3: Temporary Reinstitution of Major and Minor Application Filing Freezes

At 6:00 p.m. ET, December 3, 2025, all applications for major changes for Class A, LPTV, and TV translator stations will once again be frozen. **At 6:00 p.m. ET, January 14, 2026**, the Bureau will also institute a temporary freeze on all minor change applications for Class A, LPTV, and TV translator stations⁸ and displacement applications for LPTV and TV translator stations.⁹ These freezes are being reinstituted in order to provide a stable database for stations to prepare for the complete lifting of the freeze on major modification applications and for applicants to prepare for the opportunity to seek new stations. Applicants that file applications during these temporary freezes will be dismissed and will need to re-file once the freezes are lifted.

Phase 4: Resumption of Minor and Major Modification Filings and Commencement of Filing For New LPTV and TV Translator Stations

Beginning at 12:01 a.m. ET, January 21, 2026, we will lift the freezes and begin accepting, on a first-come, first-served basis, all major change and minor change applications (including displacement applications). At the same time, we will lift the freeze and begin accepting, on a first-come, first-served basis, applications for new LPTV and TV translator stations.¹⁰ These filings opportunities will remain available indefinitely unless the Commission determines that a new freeze is warranted. There will be no geographical restrictions or any other limitations on applications for minor modification, major modification, or applications for new LPTV and TV translator stations beyond the operating parameters and enumerated restrictions set forth in parts 73 and 74 of the Commission's rules.¹¹ Because the 2010

⁷ To be clear, stations may voluntarily change channels during this opportunity so long as the proposed change otherwise complies with the Commission's rules and any facility relocation is no greater than 121.0 km.

⁸ See 47 CFR §§ 73.3572(a)(2) and 74.787(b)(1)(iii).

⁹ See 47 CFR § 74.787(a)(4). Class A stations are not eligible for displacement.

¹⁰ The acceptance of applications for new Class A stations is limited by statute and therefore applications for new Class A stations will not be accepted during this filing opportunity. See Community Broadcasters Protection Act of 1999, Pub. L. No. 106-113, 113 Stat. Appendix I at pp. 1501A-594 - 1501A-598 (1999), codified at 47 U.S.C. § 336(f); *Establishment of a Class A Television Service*, MM Docket No. 00-10, Report and Order, 15 FCC Rcd 6355, 6357-58, para. 2 (2000); Low Power Protection Act (LPPA), Pub. L. 117-344, 136 Stat. 6193 (2023); *Implementation of the Low Power Protection Act*, MB Docket No. 23-126, Report and Order, 38 FCC Rcd 12627 (2023). See also *Media Bureau Announces Filing Window for Qualified Low Power Television Stations to Convert to Class A Status Pursuant to the Low Power Protection Act*, Public Notice, 39 FCC Rcd 5749 (MB 2024) (establishing May 30, 2024 to May 30, 2025 as the window to apply for Class A status under the LPPA).

¹¹ Once again, applications filed during this opportunity may not propose facilities that would cause impermissible

(continued....)

LPTV Freeze prevented the commencement of a nationwide filing opportunity for new LPTV and TV translator stations,¹² we believe that it is appropriate to permit both unrestricted major modification applications and new station applications at the same time, just as would have been allowed should the new station opportunity have proceeded in 2010. By the time this phase occurs, existing stations will have been provided ample opportunity to maximize their facilities in order to address changes in their service areas/local markets (e.g. demographic changes, marketplace demands, etc.) since 2010 – including through channel sharing arrangements,¹³ voluntarily change channels,¹⁴ and facility relocations of up to 121.0 km.¹⁵

Application Filing and Processing Procedures

Each applicant should carefully read the instructions to its application, as well as this Public Notice, to ensure that each response, which constitutes a certification or material representation, is accurate and complete.¹⁶ We also remind applicants that they must certify that, at the time of filing, they have sufficient finances to construct and operate the facility,¹⁷ and there is reasonable site assurance for the site specified in the application.¹⁸

Applications Filing Instructions and Fees. Class A station major modification applications must be filed electronically via the Commission's Licensing and Management System (LMS) on FCC Form 2100 – Schedule E and applicants are required to pay the requisite fee for a major change application

interference to other authorized full power, Class A, and LPTV/translator stations, including valid construction permits for same, and any earlier-filed application for new or modify facility including earlier-filed applications for minor change. *See* 47 CFR §§ 74.793(e)-(h) (defining the levels of protection to the authorized facilities of full power, Class A, LPTV and TV translator stations). Minor modification and displacement applications will be restricted to the distance relocation limits and any other restrictions set forth in the Commission's rules. *See* 47 CFR §§ 73.3572(a)(2), (3) and 74.787(a)(4), (b).

¹² *See Commencement of Rural, First-Come, First-Served Digital Licensing for Low Power Television and TV Translators Beginning August 25, 2009 and Commencement of Nationwide, First-Come, First-Served Digital Licensing for Low Power Television and TV Translator Services Beginning January 25, 2010*, Public Notice, 24 FCC Rcd 8911 (MB 2009). The nationwide window for new LPTV and TV translator stations was initially set for January 25, 2010, but later postponed to July 26, 2010, and then postponed indefinitely. *See Initiation of Nationwide First-Come, First-Served Digital Licensing for Low Power Television and TV Translators Postponed to July 26, 2010*, Public Notice, 24 FCC Rcd 14614 (MB 2009); *Initiation of Nationwide First-Come, First-Served Digital Licensing for Low Power Television and TV Translators Postponed Until Further Notice*, Public Notice, 25 FCC Rcd 8179 (MB 2010).

¹³ *See* 47 CFR § 73.6028 – Class A television channel sharing outside the incentive auction; 47 CFR § 74.799 – Low power television and TV translator channel sharing.

¹⁴ *See Channel Change PN*, *supra* n.2.

¹⁵ *See supra* “Phase 2: Expanded Major Modification Filing Opportunity for Existing Stations.”

¹⁶ *See* 47 CFR § 1.17.

¹⁷ The applicant must have sufficient net liquid assets on hand or committed sources of funds to construct the proposed facility and operate it for three months, without additional funds. *See Merrimack Valley Broadcasting, Inc.*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 82 FCC 2d 166, 167 (1980); *Liberty Productions*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 7 FCC Rcd 7581, 7584 (1992).

¹⁸ *See William F. Wallace and Anne K. Wallace*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 49 FCC 2d 1424, 1427, para. 7 (1974) (*Wallace*); *South Florida Broad. Co.*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 99 FCC 2d 840, 842, para. 3 (1984). Although an applicant does not need to have a binding agreement or absolute assurance of a proposed site, a mere possibility that the site will be available is not sufficient. *See Wallace*, 49 FCC 2d at 1427, para. 6.

(\$5,000.00).¹⁹ LPTV and TV translator applications for new stations or major changes to existing stations must be filed electronically via LMS on FCC Form 2100 – Schedule C and applicants are required to pay the requisite fee for a major change application (\$910.00).²⁰ Filing instructions are provided in the Appendix.

First-Come, First-Served Processing and Settlements. All major change and new station applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis and will be “cut off” daily for purposes of determining mutually exclusive (MX) applications.²¹ Applications filed during these opportunities may not propose facilities that would cause impermissible interference to other proposed or authorized full power, Class A, and LPTV/translator stations, including valid construction permits and any earlier-filed application for a new or modified facility – including earlier-filed applications for minor (including displacement) or major change.²² Applicants will be given an opportunity to resolve MX applications through settlement or engineering amendment that may be submitted either prior or during a settlement window to be announced by the Bureau by separate public notice.²³ Following the close of the settlement window, remaining MX applications will be resolved through competitive bidding.²⁴

Acceptability of Applications. Applicants will be permitted to input information in their applications prior to any filing opportunities, but should not submit their application prior to the dates and times set forth above for any given opportunity. Applications that are submitted before the freezes are lifted will be dismissed without consideration. The Bureau will conduct an initial review of all applications filed during these opportunities for compliance with the filing parameters set forth in this Public Notice and all relevant technical and legal rules. It will dismiss any application that is unacceptable for filing. An applicant will have *one* opportunity to file a minor curative amendment to a dismissed application and a petition for reconsideration, requesting reinstatement of the application *nunc pro tunc*.²⁵ Any curative amendment may only propose minor changes, must comply with all relevant rules, and may not result in any new MX applications. Bureau staff will not reinstate the application of an

¹⁹ 47 CFR § 1.1104, Table 1. Instructions for filing major change applications are contained in the Appendix.

²⁰ 47 CFR § 1.1104, Table 6. Instructions for filing new station and major change applications are contained in the Appendix.

²¹ See 47 CFR §§ 74.787(a)(3) and 73.3572(e). When the distance between the facilities proposed in two or more applications does not meet the minimum distance separation requirements specified in 47 CFR §§ 74.793(e)-(h), the applications are treated as mutually exclusive. For first-come, first-served application filing opportunities, applications are considered “cut-off” from competing MX applications on the day they are filed. See 47 CFR § 73.3564(c).

²² See 47 CFR §§ 74.793(e)-(h) (defining the levels of protection to the authorized facilities of full power, Class A, LPTV and TV translator stations).

²³ See 47 U.S.C. § 309(j)(6)(E); 47 CFR § 73.5002(d). All settlements filed during the settlement window will be required to comply with the provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 311(c) and 47 CFR § 73.3525, including, *inter alia*, the settlement reimbursement restrictions. Further, engineering amendments submitted during the settlement window must be minor, as defined by the applicable rules, and must not create new mutual exclusivities or application conflicts. See 47 CFR §§ 73.3572(a)(3), 74.787(b)(2). MX applications from prior filing opportunities, *see, e.g., supra* note 2, must be protected. Those applicants are permitted to propose resolution of such conflicts and we encourage them to attempt to do so prior to commencement of new filing opportunities announced by this Public Notice. We will consider waiver of any freeze instituted by this Public Notice to resolve such MX situations. As new filing opportunities commence, the ability to resolve existing MX applications by technical resolution will likely increasingly become more limited.

²⁴ See 47 CFR §§ 73.5000 *et seq.*

²⁵ The amendment and petition for reconsideration must be filed within 30 days of the dismissal of the application and follow all procedures. 47 CFR § 1.106. See also *Media Bureau Announces Procedures and Requirements for November 1-November 8, 2023, Low Power FM Filing Window*, Public Notice, 38 FCC Rcd 6660 (MB 2023).

applicant that is unable to cure all defects (including any defects not previously identified by the Bureau staff). This process will ensure the timely evaluation of processing of all applications and issuance of construction permits.²⁶

Petitions to Deny. Once a singleton application is found to be legally and technically acceptable, the application will be accepted for filing, which will commence the 30-day period for filing petitions to deny.²⁷ For MX applications that are subject to competitive bidding, petitions to deny may be filed against the winning bidder's long-form application within fifteen (15) days following the issuance of a public notice announcing that the long-form application has been accepted for filing.²⁸ Petitions to deny must be filed in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Commission's rules.²⁹ Electronic submissions are encouraged, though petitions to deny may be filed electronically or by paper.

- **Electronic Filers.** Petitions to Deny may be filed electronically using the Internet through the Commission's Licensing and Management System (LMS) at <https://enterpriseefiling.fcc.gov/dataentry/login.html>.³⁰
- **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 courier, or by the U.S. Postal Service. **All filings must be addressed to the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission and to the Attention of the Chief of the Video Division, Media Bureau. It is also encouraged to submit a courtesy copy by e-mail to: Shaun.Maher@fcc.gov.**
 - Hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary are accepted between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. ET by the FCC's mailing contractor at 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes and boxes must be disposed of before entering the building.³¹
 - 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.
 - Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail must be addressed to 45 L Street, NE, Washington, DC 20554.

Local Public Notice Requirements. If and when a major modification application or new station

²⁶ Construction permits will be issued for a period of 3 years. See 47 CFR §§ 73.3598(a), 74.780(bbb). To the extent an applicant takes its licensed facility silent during construction of modified facility, we remind licensees of the 12-month automatic expiration provision of section 312(g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. 47 U.S.C. §312(g); see also 47 CFR §§ 73.1740(c), 74.763(c). Stations must notify the Commission of any silence as required by the rules. See 47 CFR §§ 73.1635(a), 73.1740(a)(4), 74.763(b).

²⁷ See 47 CFR § 73.3584(c). The rule states that the Petition to Deny must be filed "within 30 days of the FCC Public Notice proposing the application for grant." *Id.* Here, the Bureau will consider that to occur on the date the application is accepted for filing and appears on the "Applications Public Notice" in the Commission's Daily Digest. See FCC Daily Digest, <https://www.fcc.gov/proceedings-actions/daily-digest> (last visited Aug. 15, 2025).

²⁸ See 47 CFR §§ 73.5006(a), (b).

²⁹ 47 CFR §§ 73.3584(c), 73.5006(b). An applicant may file an opposition and the petitioner may file a reply, within the times prescribed by the rules. 47 CFR §§ 73.3584(c), 73.5006(c). A copy of the petition to deny, opposition or reply must be served on the other parties to the proceeding. See 47 CFR § 1.49.

³⁰ Detailed instructions on how to file a pleading can be found at: <https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/lms-how-to-file-pleadings-and-appeals.pdf>.

³¹ Hand-delivered or messenger delivered paper filings are NOT be accepted at FCC Headquarters.

application is accepted for filing, the applicant must provide a public notice to inform its local community about its proposal.³² The initial filing of a major change or new station application does not trigger the local public notice requirements. Rather, the acceptance for filing starts an applicant's local public notice obligations.³³ Specifically, once an application is accepted for filing, an LPTV/TV translator applicant for a new station or major modification must give local notice by posting notice online, either (1) on the station website or a website affiliated with the station, the applicant, or its parent entity, or (2) on a publicly accessible, locally targeted website.³⁴ The online notice must be posted for 30 consecutive days following the acceptance of the application for filing.³⁵ A Class A major modification applicant must provide an on-air public announcement containing the text set forth in section 73.3580(b)(1)(i).³⁶ The on-air notice must be aired six times between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. (Monday-Friday) over the course of four consecutive weeks following the acceptance of the application for filing.³⁷

Amendments to Applications. Each applicant must continue to maintain the accuracy and completeness of the information in its application. Each applicant must notify the Commission, by electronically filing an amendment, of any substantial change that may be of decisional significance to the application.³⁸

For additional information, contact Shaun Maher, Video Division, Media Bureau at Shaun.Maher@fcc.gov or (202) 418-2324 (legal); or Mark Colombo, Video Division, Media Bureau at Mark.Colombo@fcc.gov or (202) 418-7611 (technical).

This action is taken by the Chief, Media Bureau, pursuant to authority delegated by sections 0.61 and 0.283 of the Commission's rules.³⁹

³² See 47 CFR § 73.3580(c)(1)(i).

³³ See 47 CFR § 73.3564. An application is "accepted for filing" once the Bureau determines that a singleton application is legally and technically acceptable, it will accept the application for filing by the "Applications Public Notice" in Commission's Daily Digest or in the case of competitive bidding once the Commission places an applicant's long form application on Public Notice.

³⁴ 47 CFR §§ 73.3580 (b)(2), (c)(1)(i), (c)(2)(iii).

³⁵ *Id.* The applicant must post the online notice no earlier than the date of release of the acceptance for filing public notice, and not later than five business days following release of the acceptance public notice. 47 CFR § 73.3580(b)(2)(iv).

³⁶ 47 CFR § 73.3580(b)(1)(i). A station broadcasting primarily in a foreign language should broadcast the announcements in that language. 47 CFR § 73.3580(b)(2)(v).

³⁷ 47 CFR § 73.3580(b)(1). No more than two announcements may be made each week and broadcasts made in the same week may not be made on the same day. 47 CFR §§ 73.3580(b)(1)(ii), (iv). Stations not broadcasting during all or a portion of the period during which on-air announcements are required must instead provide online notice. 47 CFR § 73.3580(b)(1)(vi). The applicant may air the first on-air announcement as early as the date of release of the acceptance public notice, but not later than the fifth business day following release of the acceptance public notice. 47 CFR § 73.3580(b)(1)(ii).

³⁸ See 47 CFR § 1.65.

³⁹ 47 CFR §§ 0.61 and 0.283. The decision to impose limitations on the filing and processing of modification applications is procedural in nature, and therefore is not subject to the notice and comment and effective date requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act. See 5 U.S.C. § 553(b)(A), (d); see also, e.g., *Neighborhood TV Co. v. FCC*, 742 F.2d 629, 637-38 (D.C. Cir. 1984) (holding that the Commission's filing freeze is a procedural rule not subject to the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act); *Buckeye Cablevision, Inc. v. United States*, 438 F.2d 948, 952- 53 (6th Cir. 1971); *Kessler v. FCC*, 326 F.2d 673, 680-82 (D.C. Cir. 1963). We also find good cause not to delay the freeze instituted today on currently available Class A, LPTV, and TV translator

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major modifications until after publication in the Federal Register because such delay would undermine the purpose of the freeze to create a stable database in order for prospective applicants to evaluate potential station modifications and expeditiously provide enhanced or new television service to viewers.