Federal Communications Commission 45 L Street NE Washington, DC 20554

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

DA 25-876

Released: September 22, 2025

MEDIA BUREAU ESTABLISHES PLEADING CYCLE FOR THREE SETS OF ASSIGNMENT APPLICATIONS TO GRAY TELEVISION LICENSEE, LLC, FROM SUBSIDIARIES OF (1) SAGAMOREHILL BROADCASTING II, LLC; (2) BLOCK COMMUNICATIONS, INC.; AND (3) ALLEN MEDIA, LLC

Petition to Deny Date: October 22, 2025 Opposition Date: November 6, 2025 Reply Date: November 17, 2025

As set forth in the Attachment, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) on September 22, 2025 accepted for filing three sets of applications seeking consent to the assignment of broadcast television licenses to Gray Television Licensee, LLC, (Gray) from subsidiaries of: (1) SagamoreHill Broadcasting II, LLC (SagamoreHill)); (2) Block Communications, Inc. (Block); and (3) Allen Media, LLC (Allen Media).¹

The Commission's Local Television Ownership Rule² generally prohibits common ownership of two full power stations with overlapping contours in the same Nielsen Designated Market Area (DMA), where both are ranked among the top four stations in the DMA, subject to certain exceptions (the Top-Four Prohibition).³ On July 23, 2025, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit issued a decision vacating and remanding the Top-Four Prohibition.⁴ It is anticipated that the mandate for the vacatur of the Top-Four Prohibition will take effect on October 21, 2025.

Gray proposes to own two or more full power stations in the following DMAs, for which it requests grant either pursuant to the case-by-case standard in the Commission's Rules,⁵ or pursuant to a general and/or failing station waiver:⁶

SagamoreHill-Gray

- <u>Lubbock DMA:</u> KCBD(TV) and KJTV-TV, Lubbock, Texas, and KLCW-TV, Wolfforth, Texas.
- Columbus, GA DMA: WTVM(TV) and WLTZ(TV), Columbus, Georgia.

¹ The full list of applications and licensee subsidiaries are listed in the Attachment. Copies of the applications are available in the Commission's Licensing and Management System (LMS).

² 47 CFR § 73.3555(b).

³ 47 CFR § 73.3555(b)(1)(ii).

⁴ Zimmer Radio of Mid-Missouri, Inc. v. FCC, et al., No. 24-1380 (8th Cir. July 23, 2025). The court also vacated an amendment to Note 11 of that rule that included multicast and low-power television streams in the Top-Four Prohibition.

⁵ 47 CFR § 73.3555(b)(2).

⁶ 47 CFR § 1.3; 47 CFR § 73.3555(b), Note 7.

Block-Gray

• <u>Louisville DMA</u>: WAVE(TV) and WDRB(TV), Louisville, Kentucky, and WBKI(TV), Salem, Indiana.

Allen Media

- Huntsville-Decatur (Florence) DMA: WAFF(TV) and WAAY-TV, Huntsville, Alabama.
- <u>Paducah-Cape Girardeau-Harrisburg DMA</u>: KFVS(TV), Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and WSIL-TV, Harrisburg, Illinois.⁷
- Evansville DMA: WFIE(TV) and WEVV-TV, Evansville, Indiana.
- Fort Wayne DMA: WPTA(TV), WISE-TV, and WFFT-TV, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
- <u>Montgomery DMA</u>: WSFA(TV) and WCOV-TV, Montgomery, Alabama, and WIYC(TV), Troy, Alabama.
- Lafayette, Louisiana DMA: KATC(TV) and KADN-TV, Lafayette, Louisiana.8
- Rockford DMA: WSLN(TV), Freeport, Illinois, and WREX(TV), Rockford, Illinois.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The applications for assignment of licenses referred to in this Public Notice have been accepted for filing upon initial review. The Commission reserves the right to return any application if, upon further examination, it is determined to be defective and not in conformance with the Commission's Rules or policies. Interested persons must file petitions to deny no later than October 22, 2025. Oppositions to petitions to deny must be filed no later than November 6, 2025. Replies must be filed no later than November 17, 2025. Persons and entities that properly file petitions to deny become parties to the proceeding.

To allow the Commission to consider fully all substantive issues regarding the applications in as timely and efficient a manner as possible, petitioners should raise all issues in their initial filings. Replies should only address matters raised in oppositions.⁹

Although we are issuing this Public Notice establishing the pleading cycles for the three sets of assignment applications as a matter of administrative convenience, we emphasize that we will not necessarily process these applications simultaneously, and that petitioners should submit their filings only in the application files in which they have standing.

All filings concerning matters referenced in this Public Notice must refer to the specific file numbers of the individual applications or other matters to which the filings pertain.

Submissions in this matter must be filed electronically (*i.e.*, through LMS).

In addition, one copy of each submission must be sent to the following:

- David Brown, Chief, Video Division, Media Bureau, e-mail David.Brown@fcc.gov
- Jeremy Miller, Video Division, Media Bureau, e-mail Jeremy.Miller@fcc.gov

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⁷ Gray also requests a continuing satellite exception for KPOB-TV, Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

⁸ Allen Media-Gray Applications, Comprehensive Exhibit at 6-7. In the Lafayette, Louisiana DMA where Gray proposes ultimately to operate KATC and KADN-TV, Gray's planned acquisition of KATC is pending before the Commission in a separate transaction. *Id.* at 7 (citing *Media Bureau Establishes Pleading Cycle for Assignment Applications Between Gray and Scripps*, Public Notice, DA 25-672 (MB rel. Jul. 30, 2025)).

⁹ 47 CFR § 1.45(c).

Availability of Documents. Documents in this proceeding are available electronically through the FCC's Licensing and Management System at the file numbers in the Attachment.

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 & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (TTY).

For further information, contact David Brown at (202) 418-1645 or Jeremy Miller at (202) 418-1507. For press inquiries, contact Nancy Murphy at (202) 418-1043.

This action is taken by the Acting Chief, Media Bureau, pursuant to authority delegated by sections 0.61 and 0.283 of the Commission's Rules. 10

By: Acting Chief, Media Bureau

¹⁰ 47 CFR §§ 0.61 and 0.283.

Attachment

Proposed License Assignments from SagamoreHill to Gray (SagamoreHill-Gray)

Call Sign	Facility	Assignor	LMS File	Community of License
	ID No.		No.	
WLTZ	37179	SAGAMOREHILL OF	0000276662	COLUMBUS, GA
		COLUMBUS GA, LLC		
KJTV-TV	55031	SAGAMOREHILL OF	0000276663	LUBBOCK, TX
		LUBBOCK, LLC		
KJTV-CD	168090	SAGAMOREHILL OF	0000276664	WOLFFORTH, TX
		LUBBOCK, LLC		
K19KT-D	55034	SAGAMOREHILL OF	0000276665	HOBBS, NM
		LUBBOCK, LLC		

Proposed License Assignments from Block to Gray (Block-Gray)

Call Sign	Facility	Assignor	LMS File	Community of License
	ID No.		No.	
		INDEPENDENCE		
WDRB	28476	TELEVISION	0000276772	LOUISVILLE, KY
		COMPANY		
		INDEPENDENCE		
WBKI	34167	TELEVISION	0000276773	SALEM, IN
		COMPANY		
WLIO	37503	Lima Communications	0000276778	LIMA, OH
WLIO	37303	Corporation	0000270778	LIMA, OH
WAND	70852	WAND TV, Inc.	0000276779	DECATUR, IL
W33EK-D	182814	WAND TV, Inc.	0000276780	EFFINGHAM, IL
W29ES-D	182815	WAND TV, Inc.	0000276781	JACKSONVILLE, IL
W23EQ-D	70853	WAND TV, Inc.	0000276782	DANVILLE, IL
WOHL-CD	68549	WEST CENTRAL OHIO	0000276783	LIMA, OH
		BROADCASTING, INC.		
WAMS-CD	70612	WEST CENTRAL OHIO	0000276784	MINSTER/NEW
		BROADCASTING, INC.		BREMEN, OH
WFND-LD	21475	WEST CENTRAL OHIO	0000276785	FINDLAY, OH
		BROADCASTING, INC.		
WPNM-CD	21476	WEST CENTRAL OHIO	0000276786	LEIPSIC, OH
		BROADCASTING, INC.		

Proposed License Assignments from Allen Media to Gray (Allen Media-Gray)

Call Sign	Facility ID No.	Assignor	LMS File No.	Community of License
WAAY-TV	57292	Alabama TV License Company, LLC	0000277199	HUNTSVILLE, AL
WSIL-TV	73999	Harrisburg TV License Company, LLC	0000277196	HARRISBURG, IL
K10KM-D	74000	Harrisburg TV License Company, LLC	0000277197	CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO
KPOB-TV	73998	Harrisburg TV License Company, LLC	0000277198	POPLAR BLUFF, MO
WEVV-TV	72041	Harrisburg TV License Company, LLC	0000277194	EVANSVILLE, IN
WEEV-LD	188022	Harrisburg TV License Company, LLC	0000277195	EVANSVILLE, IN
WFFT-TV	25040	Ft. Wayne TV License Company, LLC	0000277192	FORT WAYNE, IN
WCOV-TV	73642	Montgomery TV License Company, LLC	0000277200	MONTGOMERY, AL
WALE-LD	181989	Montgomery TV License Company, LLC	0000277201	MONTGOMERY, AL
WIYC	62207	Montgomery TV License Company, LLC	0000277202	TROY, AL
KADN-TV	33261	BCBL License Subsidiary, LLC	0000277203	LAFAYETTE, LA
KLAF-LD	16535	BCBL License Subsidiary, LLC	0000277204	LAFAYETTE, LA
WTVA	74148	Mississippi TV License Company, LLC	0000277208	TUPELO, MS
WREX	73940	Rockford TV License Company, LLC	0000277193	ROCKFORD, IL
WTHI-TV	70655	Terre Haute TV License Company, LLC	0000277206	TERRE HAUTE, IN
WLFI-TV	73204	Lafayette TV License Company, LLC	0000277205	LAFAYETTE, IN