

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

In the Matter of )
Benjamin L. Stratemeyer, ) File No.: EB-FIELDNER-26-00040166
Licensee of AM Station WKRO ) Facility ID: 57415
and )
Sun Industries, Inc. )
Cairo, Illinois )

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Released: May 29, 2026

By the Regional Director, Region One, Enforcement Bureau:

1. This is a Notice of Violation (Notice) issued pursuant to section 1.89 of the Commission’s rules¹ to Benjamin L. Stratemeyer (Stratemeyer) and Sun Industries, Inc. Stratemeyer is the current licensee of AM station WKRO which is licensed to operate from an antenna structure near Cairo, Illinois (Antenna Structure).² Stratemeyer, along with Sun Industries, Inc., (collectively, the Structure Owners) are the reputed owners of the Antenna Structure.³ Pursuant to section 1.89(a) of the Commission’s rules, issuance of this Notice does not preclude the Enforcement Bureau from further action if warranted, including issuing a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture for the violations noted herein.⁴

2. On February 17 and February 18, 2026, an agent of the Enforcement Bureau’s Columbia Office inspected the Antenna Structure at the coordinates 37° 02’ 33” N 89° 11’ 08” W⁵ and observed the following violations:

- a. 47 CFR § 17.6: “[I]f a licensee or permittee authorized on an antenna structure is aware that the structure is not being maintained in accordance with the specifications set forth on the Antenna Structure Registration (FCC Form 854R) or the requirements of this part, or otherwise has reason to question whether the antenna structure owner is carrying out its responsibility under this part, the licensee or permittee must take immediate steps to ensure that the antenna structure is brought into compliance and remains in compliance.” The WKRO License indicates that the Antenna Structure requires painting and red obstruction

¹ 47 CFR § 1.89.

² See FCC Licensing and Management System, Facility ID 57415, License File No. BL-14080, attachments (WKRO License) and Assignment of License, File No. BAL-20020311AAL (assignment to Benjamin L. Stratemeyer).

³ Stratemeyer represents that he leases the Antenna Structure from Sun Industries, Inc., but State of Illinois corporate records indicate Sun Industries, Inc. was dissolved in April 2024 (https://apps.ilsos.gov/businessentitysearch/).

⁴ 47 CFR § 1.89(a).

⁵ The WKRO License authorizes WKRO to operate from the coordinates 37° 02’ 36.2” NL, 89° 11’ 02.3” WL. The Antenna Structure was physically located at the coordinates 37° 02’ 33” NL, 89° 11’ 08” WL, which is 0.1 miles from the authorized coordinates.

lighting during the nighttime that includes a top-level beacon and two steady burning side markers mounted at the 1/3 and 2/3 levels, in accordance with FCC Paragraphs 1, 3, 12, and 21.<sup>6</sup> On February 17, 2026, well after sunset at 6:45 p.m. CST, the agent observed that all of the obstruction lighting on the Antenna Structure was extinguished. On February 18, 2026, at 9:01 a.m. CST, the agent observed that the paint on the Antenna Structures was severely faded, flaking, and exposing bare metal, and did not meet the standards of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) In-Service Aviation Orange Tolerance Chart. On February 23, 2026, Stratemeyer acknowledged in a telephone call with the agent that he was previously aware of the poor condition of the Antenna Structure paint and admitted that the tower never had any lighting.<sup>7</sup>

- b. 47 CFR § 17.4(a): "The owner of any proposed or existing antenna structure that requires notice of proposed construction to the [FAA] due to physical obstruction must register the structure with the Commission." The Agent took measurements of the Antenna Structure and found that because the Antenna Structure fails the FAA's 100 to 1 slope criteria with respect to the nearby Cairo Regional Airport in Cairo, Illinois, it qualifies as a physical obstruction requiring a notice of proposed construction to the FAA.<sup>8</sup> Consequently, the Structure Owners were required to register the Antenna Structure with the Commission, but failed to do so.

3. Pursuant to section 308(b) and 403 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (Act), and section 1.89 of the Commission's rules, we seek additional information concerning the violations and any remedial actions taken.<sup>9</sup> Therefore, the Structure Owners must submit a written statement concerning this matter within twenty (20) days of release of this Notice. The response (i) must fully explain each violation, including all relevant surrounding facts and circumstances, (ii) must contain a statement of the specific action(s) taken to correct each violation and preclude recurrence, and (iii) must include a time line for completion of any pending corrective action(s). The response must be complete in itself and must not be abbreviated by reference to other communications or answers to other notices.<sup>10</sup>

4. In accordance with section 1.16 of the Commission's rules, we direct the Structure Owners to support its response to this Notice with an affidavit or declaration under penalty of perjury, signed and dated by an authorized officer of the Structure Owners with personal knowledge of the representations provided in the Structure Owner's response, verifying the truth and accuracy of the information therein, and confirming that all of the information requested by this Notice which is in the licensee's possession, custody, control, or knowledge has been produced.<sup>11</sup> To knowingly and willfully make any false

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<sup>6</sup> See FCC Licensing and Management System, Facility ID 57415, Attachments to License File No. BL-14080.

<sup>7</sup> Stratemeyer claimed that the Antenna Structure had sustained its damage in a storm, but the extensive vegetative growth extending up the tower at the time of the February 18, 2026 inspection demonstrated that it had not undergone maintenance for a substantial period of time.

<sup>8</sup> 47 CFR § 17.7(b)(1): "A notification to the FAA is required ... for ... any construction or alteration that exceeds an imaginary surface extending outward and upward at any of the following slopes: 100 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 6.10 kilometers (20,000 feet) from the nearest point of the nearest runway of each airport described in paragraph (d) of this section with its longest runway more than 0.98 kilometers (3,200 feet) in actual length, excluding heliports."

<sup>9</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 308(b) and 403; 47 CFR § 1.89.

<sup>10</sup> 47 CFR § 1.89(c).

<sup>11</sup> Section 1.16 of the Commission's rules provides that "[a]ny document to be filed with the Federal Communications Commission and which is required by any law, rule or other regulation of the United States to be supported, evidenced, established or proved by a written sworn declaration, verification, certificate, statement, oath or affidavit by the person making the same, may be supported, evidenced, established or proved by the unsworn

(continued....)

statement or conceal any material fact in reply to this Notice is punishable by fine or imprisonment under title 18 of the U.S. Code.<sup>12</sup>

5. All replies and documentation sent in response to this Notice should be marked with the File Number, specified above, and mailed/e-mailed to the following addresses:

Federal Communications Commission  
EB Region One Office  
9050 Junction Drive  
Annapolis Junction, Maryland 20701

E-Mail: [Field@fcc.gov](mailto:Field@fcc.gov)

6. This Notice shall be sent to Benjamin L. Stratemeyer, 2 Magnolia Drive, P.O. Box 1626, Centralia, IL 62801; and Sun Industries, Inc., 6120 Waldo Church Rd., Centralia, IL 62960.

7. The Privacy Act of 1974<sup>13</sup> requires that we advise you that the Commission will use all relevant material information before it, including any information disclosed in your reply, to determine what, if any, enforcement action is required to ensure compliance.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

David C. Dombrowski  
Regional Director, Region One  
Enforcement Bureau

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declaration, certification, verification, or statement in writing of such person . . . . Such declaration shall be subscribed by the declarant as true under penalty of perjury, and dated, in substantially the following form . . . : ‘I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on (date). (Signature)’.” 47 CFR § 1.16.

<sup>12</sup> 18 U.S.C. §§ 1001, *et seq.*; *see also* 47 CFR § 1.17.

<sup>13</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 552a(e)(3).