



PUBLIC NOTICE

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AUCTION 114 FREEZE ANNOUNCED FOR FM MINOR CHANGE APPLICATIONS

AU Docket No. 26-105

The Media Bureau announces that it will not accept FM commercial and noncommercial educational (NCE) minor change applications during the Auction 114 Form 175 application filing window. This window will open on September 14, 2026, and close on September 30, 2026.¹ Any such minor change application submitted during the window will be dismissed.

In Auction 114, scheduled to begin on February 2, 2027, the Media Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics will make available through competitive bidding procedures 132 vacant non-reserved band allotments in the FM broadcast service. These allotments are listed in Attachment A of the *Auction 114 Procedures Public Notice*.² FM minor change applications, which can now be filed on a first-come first-served basis, must protect the reference coordinates of each of these allotments. As part of the pre-auction procedures, an auction participant must file Form 175, Application to Participate in an FCC Auction. In conjunction with its Form 175 submission, an auction participant also may specify FM preferred site coordinates, and thereby gain protection for a potential transmitter site.³ However, absent a freeze during the Form 175 filing period, an existing FM station could file a minor change proposal that would be mutually exclusive with an FM auction applicant's new FM station proposal at its preferred site, thereby subjecting the minor change application to auction procedures. This freeze also will include FM reserved band minor change applications to avoid potential conflicts between these filings and Form 175

¹ On May 11, 2026, the Media Bureau also announced a freeze, effective immediately, on the filing of applications proposing to modify any of the 132 vacant non-reserved band FM allotments scheduled for Auction 114, and petitions and counterproposals that propose a change in channel, class, community, or reference coordinates for any of the FM allotments scheduled for Auction 114. Any application, petition, or counterproposal that either proposes any change to, or fails to fully protect any of the 132 Auction 114 FM allotments, or preferred site coordinates specified in an applicant's Form 175 application, will be dismissed. This freeze will automatically terminate the day after the filing deadline for post-Auction 114 long-form applications. *See Auction 114 Freeze Announced for Certain FM Applications and Rulemaking Filings*, AU Docket No. 26-105, Public Notice, DA 26-445 (MB May 11, 2026).

² *Auction of FM Broadcast Construction Permits Scheduled for February 2, 2027; Notice and Filing Requirements, Minimum Opening Bids, Upfront Payments, and Other Procedures for Auction 114*, Public Notice, DA 26-798 (OEA/MB July 31, 2026) (*Auction 114 Procedures Public Notice*). Bidders are also cautioned that currently pending petitions for rulemaking and open rulemaking proceedings may affect the 132 FM allotments scheduled for Auction 114. *See Auction 114 Procedures Public Notice*, "Due Diligence," Section II.A.

³ *See Implementation of Section 309(j) of the Communications Act – Competitive Bidding for Commercial Broadcast and Instructional Television Fixed Service Licenses*, First Report and Order, 13 FCC Rcd 15920, 15975 and n.153 (1998), *on recon.* Memorandum Opinion and Order, 14 FCC Rcd 8724 (1999), *on further recon.* Memorandum Opinion and Order, 14 FCC Rcd 12541 (1999).

applications.⁴ These temporary freezes are designed to avoid conflicts between the frozen filings and auction proposals, and to promote a more certain and speedy auction process.

For additional information, contact James Bradshaw or Rudy Bonacci, Audio Division, Media Bureau at (202) 418-2700.

By: Acting Chief, Media Bureau

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⁴ Such conflicts may arise when the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements for FM facilities are applied to proposals specifying operation on channels in the "border" between the reserved and non-reserved bands (Channels 218-223) or on intermediate frequency (IF) channels, *i.e.*, channels that are separated by 53 or 54 channels. *See* 47 CFR §§ 73.207 and 73.507.