

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

MM Docket No. 87-267

In the Matter of

Review of the Technical  
Assignment Criteria for the  
AM Broadcast Service

**ORDER EXTENDING TIME FOR FILING REPLY  
COMMENTS TO NOTICE OF PROPOSED  
RULE MAKING**

Adopted: December 13, 1990; Released: December 14, 1990

By the Chief, Mass Media Bureau

1. On July 18, 1990, the Commission released a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* ("NPRM") in MM Docket 87-267 that proposed to revise the AM technical standards to bring about a reduction of interference in the existing AM band and to implement the expanded AM band (1605-1705 kHz) which became available for use on July 1, 1990. The deadlines for filing comments and reply comments were, respectively, October 15, 1990 and November 14, 1990. On October 4, 1990, the Commission granted a request by the Association of Federal Communications Consulting Engineers to extend these dates to November 16, 1990, and December 17, 1990, due to the complexity of the proposals contained in the NPRM.

2. On December 10, 1990, the firm of du Treil, Lundin & Rackley, Inc. (du Treil), consulting engineers, requested an additional 30 day extension of the reply comment period. du Treil finds the 30 day reply period too restrictive for researching, copying and reviewing the comments. du Treil cites the complexity and diversity of this Rule Making proceeding, as evidenced by the comments they have already reviewed. A letter in support of the du Treil petition was filed December 11, 1990, by the firm of Cohen, Dippell and Everist, P.C., who note the importance of the Rule Making to the AM industry and the importance to the Commission of full consideration of technical comments.

3. A review by Commission staff indicates that nearly 100 comments have been filed in response to the NPRM, many of which are quite extensive in scope, and some of which contain very complex engineering analyses of the various technical issues raised in the Rule Making. We can appreciate the difficulty which parties preparing reply comments might encounter in reviewing and evaluating this material. While we are reluctant to further delay action in this proceeding, and for that reason granted only 30-day, rather than 60-day, comment and reply comment extensions in our Order of October 4, 1990, we are nevertheless persuaded that the extension now under consideration should be approved.

4. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT the request to extend the reply comment date filed by du Treil, Lundin & Rackley, Inc. is GRANTED. The date for filing reply comments in the NPRM is extended to January 17, 1991. No further extension of this date is contemplated.

5. This action is taken pursuant to authority found in Sections 4(i) and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Sections 0.204(b), 0.283, 1.45 and 1.46 of the Commission's Rules.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Roy J. Stewart  
Chief, Mass Media Bureau