FCC MODIFIES PROGRAM RECORD-KEEPING REQUIREMENT FOR COMMERCIAL RADIO STATION LICENSEES
(BC DOCKET 79-219)

In response to an appellate court's remand, the Commission has modified its program record-keeping requirement for commercial radio licensees.

Under the new rule, a licensee is required, each quarter, to list programs that have provided the station's most significant treatment of community issues during the preceding three-month period.

Last December, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit remanded the radio deregulation proceeding for further action regarding the illustrative issues/programs list as a record-keeping device. The FCC pointed out that the significant treatment approach can give the public substantial and sufficient information about a station's issue-responsive programming to determine whether a station has fulfilled its programing obligation without unduly burdening the licensee.

The Commission further stated that the new rule does not impose a requirement to maintain comprehensive public file lists. The FCC continues to believe that a comprehensive requirement would place an inordinate record-keeping burden on licensees.

Action by the Commission May 1, 1986, by Memorandum Opinion and Order (FCC 86-222). Commissioners Fowler (Chairman), Quello, Dawson and Patrick.

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For further information contact Freda Lippert Thyden at (202) 632-7792.