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A procedure which will segregate the functions of the War Production Board and the Federal Communications Commission in acting on applications for new or expanded facilities for radio broadcasting stations was announced today by WPB.

The procedure provides that upon approving an application, FCC will give the applicant a conditional grant, subject to WPB approval for construction or modification of facilities. A permit will be granted by FCC after these conditions are satisfied. The procedure defines more clearly the fields of operation of the two agencies and is the product of mutual study of problems of handling new facilities applications.

The WPB announcement came simultaneously with the issuance by FCC of a supplemental statement of policy concerning applications for radio station permits.

The FCC statement of policy is not to be construed as an invitation for the filing of applications, the agencies emphasized, but only to permit grants that will serve an outstanding public need or the national interest in the war effort.

The Radio and Radar Division of WPB pointed out that FCC policy does not mean a relaxation of WPB policy, which is dictated by the need for conservation of manpower, materials and manufacturing facilities of radio equipment and maintenance supplies. Present indications are that despite the tremendous expansion of radio production in the past two years, the requirements of the armed forces in 1944 are half again as large as in 1943. This large demand on the industry will not allow more than minimum essential production of additional equipment for new stations or the expansion of existing station, the Division said.

WPB efforts are now being directed primarily to provide existing broadcasting stations with essential replacement equipment such as microphones, turntables, audio amplifiers and recording equipment. It is felt that before equipment is made available to new stations, existing stations should be provided with such equipment as is needed to maintain the service they have been offering in the past.

However, an applicant desiring further consideration of an application for radio facilities or change in facilities which has been dismissed by FCC pursuant to its Memorandum Opinion of February 23, 1942, and any later statements of policy which halted granting of wartime applications, may submit a petition for reinstatement of such application to FCC within 60 days of January 26, 1944, the date of issuance of the supplemental statement of policy by FCC. The petition should be accompanied with amendments and supplemental information appropriate to any change in circumstances.

WPB said that FCC Order 107, issued December 1, 1942, which reduced the power used by radio stations, had been very effective in reducing the replacement parts needed by stations without any noticeable impairment of service, and recommended to FCC that this Order be kept in effect

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WPB is ready to review any application for materials presented to it, and if special circumstances justify unusual action, WPB will be governed accordingly.

WPB orders restrict radio construction in the following ways:

- 1 - General Limitation Order L-265 prohibits the transfer of electronic equipment from a supplier or manufacturer unless the order bears a preference rating of A-1-A or better. A rating of AA-4 or better is required for manufacture of such equipment.
- 2 - General Limitation Order L-41 requires an authorization to start construction if the cost of construction is over \$200.
- 3 - Authorization must also be obtained from the Office of War Utilities to install power and telephone lines.
- 4 - Several other orders cover the transfer of materials, such as copper, even though they may be surplus stock.

WPB said it could not adopt a policy of granting applications merely because all required radio equipment was "on hand" or "available." Such applications will be reviewed carefully. Construction may be authorized in those cases where it is felt the use of labor and materials will aid the war effort or existing services.

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