

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington 25, D.C.

NEWS RELEASE

Friday, June 29, 1945

Chairman Paul A. Porter today said that the Federal Communications Commission will move with all possible speed to revise present regulations and standards of good engineering practice for the operation of FM, Television and Facsimile Broadcasting in the new allocations announced Wednesday.

As soon as these revised rules and standards are adopted by the Commission, the industry will have all the information it needs from a regulatory standpoint to proceed with the planning and design of new receiving sets and transmitters, Chairman Porter pointed out.

"The Commission expects to confer at an early date with representatives of industry groups with the view to scheduling a meeting sometime in July of all interested parties to formulate the industry's proposals for rules and standards," Chairman Porter said.

"It has been the consistent aim of the Commission from the very beginning of this proceeding to reach a decision in time to permit the industry to prepare to move ahead the moment that manpower and materials became available."

The Chairman added that he was pleased with the reception the Commission's final allocation had been accorded by various representatives of the interests involved.

"We have received gratifying expressions of satisfaction with this allocation," he said. "It is already apparent that the soundness of the allocation is coming to be generally recognized.

"We have had a number of inquiries as to the status of the 420 FM applications and the 119 Television applications now in our pending files. For the time being, these applications must remain in the pending files as there has been no modification of the Freeze Policy (restricting the use of critical materials) which is still in force. We shall, however, keep in daily contact with the War Production Board so that we will be in a position to give immediate notice as to when the Freeze Policy will be modified or cancelled.

"Of course, no standard, FM, Television or Facsimile applications will be finally acted upon for a period of 60 days from the date when the Freeze Policy is changed. Provision for this was made in Paragraph 3 of the Commission's Public Notice of January 25, 1945:

"3. When manpower and materials again become available and conditions permit the resumption of normal licensing practices, the Commission will make an appropriate announcement and will provide a period of not less than 60 days for the filing and processing of new applications prior to taking any action on the cases retained

(over)

in the pending files during the period that the statement of policy of January 26, 1944, as supplemented January 16, 1945, was in effect. Provision will also be made for the bringing up to date of all applications retained in the pending files. These procedures, it is believed, will prevent any inequity from resulting to persons who do not file applications during the period that the present policy remains in force.'

" While the foregoing is quoted from the standard broadcast Freeze Policy, the procedure there set forth is equally applicable to the other broadcast services since it is obvious that the same opportunities with respect to providing broadcast service must apply to all. In fact, the 60 day period is applicable to applications for new, or changes in facilities in all, broadcast services. The only type of broadcast construction it does not apply to are cases where the Commission has already specified that certain construction must be done as soon as manpower and materials become available.

"While, except as noted above, no construction permits will be granted until 60 days after a change in the Freeze Policy, the Commission's staff will, in the meantime, get to work on the applications which are in the pending files. In this connection it will not be necessary for persons with pending FM and Television applications, who have supplied full engineering data with reference to the old band, to amend them to conform to the new allocations except with respect to any changes in equipment that are proposed. The Commission's staff will go through these applications as soon as possible and call for whatever further information may be required. Everything possible will be done to eliminate unnecessary procedural steps so that when WPB gives the green light these new industries may go forward without delay.

"Prior to the adoption of revised rules and standards for the FM and Television services, the following suggestions are offered as an aid in the preparation of applications for these services. FM applications having complete engineering studies need not be recomputed to determine the coverage in the new FM band, since, in the majority of cases there will be no material difference in the distances to the 50 microvolt per meter contour in either band. Changes in equipment causing a change in the service area will, of course, require a new engineering study by the applicant. Any changes in areas resulting from the change in frequency will be taken care of in the Commission's processing of such applications. FM applications now in preparation and using the 42-50 Mc coverage chart in the present standards will be accepted by the Commission until August 1, 1945. A chart showing coverage in the new FM band is now being prepared and is expected to be available within the next few weeks; prior to the availability of this chart, however, coverage in the new FM band may be computed by using the 105 Mc coverage chart now available in the television standards. Applicants using this chart should so indicate. Incomplete FM applications now on file must, of course, be completed with complete coverage computed on the basis of the 105 Mc chart or new FM coverage

chart. In the event complete FM applications have been filed for the 42-50 Mc band which are found to include major errors, the applicant will likely be requested to complete a full engineering study for the new band. At this time FM applications need not specify a particular channel in the new FM band. Frequencies within the new band will be selected by the Chief Engineer but applicants will be given an opportunity to state whether they agree to such frequencies in lieu of the ones applied for.

"Television applications for particular channels should be prepared in accordance with the method now prescribed in the television standards, providing for interpolation by using the several charts incorporated therein. A chart for 300 Mc is now available from the Commission upon request. Applications now pending for commercial television stations may be modified for particular channels in accordance with this method. While television applications should specify particular channels and coverage, the Commission in passing on applications may not be able to assign the channel requested.

"No changes are contemplated at this time in the 50 and 500 microvolt per meter contours specified as the limit of service areas for FM and television stations, respectively. This matter will, of course, be reviewed in the standards now under preparation, together with any possible changes in the methods of allocating and assigning facilities."

Chairman Porter also had something to say to FM receiver manufacturers:

"Companies which will manufacture FM receivers should build the sets to cover the entire band from 88 to 108 megacycles. This will make possible the expansion of FM in the event facsimile is ultimately located in the 400 Mc region and vacates the band 106-108. Also, if the public is to enjoy the full capabilities of FM, manufacturers must build receivers which will reject undesired signals and noise up to one half the strength of the desired program.

"While the allocation report is a long step toward preparation for conversion, all of us must keep in mind that the first business at hand is to concentrate on beating Japan as speedily as possible."