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For Immediate Release

FCC IMPROVES TRANSLATOR INTERFERENCE COMPLAINT AND
RESOLUTION PROCESS

WASHINGTON, May 9, 2019—The Federal Communications Commission today adopted a
Report and Order that streamlines and improves the FM translator interference complaint and
resolution process.

FM translator stations rebroadcast the signal of an AM or FM station. The increasing number
of FM translator stations, as well as their growing economic importance for AM and digital FM
stations, has led to industry interest in improving the rules governing FM translator interference
complaints. Currently, even one listener complaint, at any distance from the desired FM
station, can result in an FM translator station having to cease operations. Moreover, there are
often prolonged disputes over the validity of the interference claim.

Today’s Order provides additional certainty and reduces the costs and burdens of the existing
interference claim and resolution process by:

- Allowing translator operators to change frequency to any available same-band channel
  as a minor change in response to interference issues
- Establishing a minimum number of listener complaints, proportionate to the population
  the complaining station serves, that a station would need to submit with any claim of
  interference
- Standardizing the contents of each listener complaint
- Establishing interference resolution procedures that permit, but do not require,
  complaining listeners to cooperate with remediation efforts, and implementing an
  alternative, technically-based process for demonstrating that interference has been
  resolved
- Establishing an outer contour limit for actionable interference complaints while
  allowing waivers of that limit for interference complaints that meet specified criteria

Action by the Commission May 9, 2019 by Report and Order (FCC 19-40). Chairman Pai,
Commissioners O’Rielly, Carr, Rosenworcel, and Starks approving. Chairman Pai,
Commissioners O’Rielly, Carr, and Starks issuing separate statements.

MB Docket No. 18-119

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