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

In the Matter of:

Changes in AM technical	)	
Rules to Reflect New	)	MM Docket No. 84-752
International Agreements	)	

Order

Adopted: June , 1986   Released June 24,1986

By the Chief, Mass Media Bureau

1. By <u>Report and Order</u> in this proceeding (50 Fed. Reg. 18818, published May 2, 1985) the Commission adopted a series of changes in the AM technical rules to reflect new international agreements which had been or were being negotiated. These included new metric groundwave curves which were adopted to replace the old curves in Section 73.184 which had been based on English units. The new curves were essentially the same curves which had been included in the 1984 US/Canadian AM Agreement and which parallel the curves in the Region 2 AM Agreement (Rio de Janeiro, 1981).

2. Shortly after the new curves were adopted, the Commission received a motion for stay. The motion noted the problems which could occur as the new curves were brought into use to replace the old curves and the fact that that a considerable period of time elapses between the time the curves are used for studies and these studies actually are filed. With this in mind and since at this point the curves themselves were not yet available for use, the Commission concluded that it was appropriate to stay use of the new curves. This was accomplished, under delegated authority, by the adoption of the <u>Partial Stay</u> on May 30, 1985.

3. Now that the new curves are being reproduced for distribution in the near future, it is possible to dissolve the stay and to specify an effective date for the new curves. This date needs to be far enough in advance to provide time for all parties to convert to use of the new curves which will be required for all applications filed on or after the effective date. In addition, a question arises regarding how to deal with applications filed before the effective date but which remain on file after that date. Initially, the Commission indicated its intention to apply the new curves to these applications. However, this approach introduces uncertainty into the application process. Accordingly, the Commission has decided to continue to process these applications under the rules in effect at the time of their filing.

4.   In addition to the curves themselves, the Commission indicated its intention to issue a printout of the computer program which was employed for calculating the points used in plotting the new groundwave curves.   The Commission also plans to make available a listing of the calculated points for the curves for use in "look-up" tables where desired.   These additional materials will be released during the same period when the new curves themselves will be made available.   [1]

5.   The new curves are expected to become available in the near future, thereby permitting the establishment of an effective date.   To allow adequate time for their introduction, as well as for needed modification of computer programs, the effective date will be set for January 1, 1987.   The Commission will make make an announcement when the curves and the other materials become available.   Because of the voluminous size of the "look-up" tables, the Commission does not plan to publish them but will make them available through its Copy Contractor.

6.   Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED That pursuant to authority contained in Sections 4(i), 5(d)(1) and 303 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Section 0.283 of the Commission's Rules, the stay in this proceeding IS DISSOLVED and That the new groundwave curves in Section 73.184 of the Commission's Rules ARE EFFECTIVE on January 1, 1987, and must be used for all studies filed after that date.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

James C. McKinney
Chief, Mass Media Bureau

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[1]   To facilitate use of the groundwave curves for close-in calculations and analysis, the Commission has produced an expanded scale version of the upper portion of each of the curves on graph paper with three by 2.5 log fields.   These expanded curves, numbered 1A et seq., may be used in lieu of the standard scale curve whenever desired.   No change in result occurs, as only the scale is changed.