

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER MIGNON L. CLYBURN**

Re: *Application of Radioactive, LLC For Renewal of License, Station WRAX(FM), Lake Isabella, MI, MB Docket No. 17-198.*

Why would former FCC Commissioner Michael Copps, describe the broadcast license renewal process, as an “utterly ludicrous, no-questions-asked regime?” Because in the past, when it was determined that a broadcast licensee failed to meet its obligation to serve and be responsive to the local needs and interests of their community, the FCC reached a Consent Decree, which included a fine, a shortened license term and/or the implementation of a compliance plan and everyone went on their merry way.

In many cases, I reluctantly supported such agreements while expressing my frustration and view, that an egregious disregard for the Communications Act and the Commission’s rules, should be referred to our Enforcement Bureau to initiate the process for revoking a license.

Today I amplify my voice.

A license to use the public airwaves comes with a significant responsibility to uphold the public interest, and accept enforceable public obligations. Radioactive, the licensee of WRAX (FM) in Lake Isabella, Michigan is a perfect example of why an overhaul of the license renewal process is necessary. Over the course of seven years, WRAX was silent for all but seven days. You heard me. One day per year and it appears in most instances, they did not even broadcast a full day!

Through the adoption of today's Hearing Designation Order (HDO), we provide for a “paper” hearing process, consistent with Section 309 of the Communications Act, that will allow for a determination on whether WRAX’s license should be renewed or denied.

Given these circumstances, I am pleased to see us utilize a new process for review of WRAX’s license, that will ultimately determine whether this station has served their community of license.

There is not a month that goes by, without someone sharing with me, their dream of being a broadcast station owner. Their largest impediment is usually access to capital, but another is the inability to secure an available license. So when a broadcast license holder is unable or unwilling to meet its obligations to their community, it is high time that the FCC acts to ensure that someone else who has the desire and ability, can and will.

My thanks to the Chairman for hearing my past concerns, and to the Media Bureau staff for implementing a process that upholds the sanctity of the public airwaves. I look forward to considering additional reforms in the future, that ensure broadcast licensees adhere to their responsibility to serve with programming and emergency alerts, that meet the unique local needs and interests of the communities they made a commitment to serve.