STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER GEOFFREY STARKS

Re: William L. Zawila, Permittee of FM Station KNGS, Coalinga, California, et al., EB Docket No. 03-152.

As we affirm today, engaging in misrepresentation or lack of candor before the Commission is among the most serious offenses a regulatee can commit. It jeopardizes the Commission's ability to perform its core functions and causes the expenditure of additional, otherwise unnecessary, resources to correct. I support today's action because it upholds longstanding Commission precedent that, particularly when it comes to broadcasters, a lack of candor to the Commission is a strong indication that a party may not possess the requisite character to hold a Commission license. Moreover, in the case of an unscrupulous licensee with multiple stations, misrepresentation and lack of candor constitutes "serious deliberate misconduct" that could put all of a broadcaster's licenses at risk. On both accounts, I strongly agree and I expect that the Commission will remain vigilant in our review of the character qualifications of our licensees.