

F.C.C. 70-1108

BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

In Re Broadcast of
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TRANSMISSIONS }

OCTOBER 21, 1970.

The Commission by Commissioners Burch (Chairman), Bartley, Robert E. Lee, Johnson, H. Rex Lee and Wells issued the following PUBLIC NOTICE:

REBROADCAST OF NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (WEATHER BUREAU)
TRANSMISSIONS

AM, FM, and TV broadcast stations (both commercial and educational) may, without further Commission authorization, rebroadcast weather transmissions originated by the National Weather Service (Weather Bureau) on the frequencies 162.55 MHz and 162.4 MHz.

When Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) facilities, systems, and the Emergency Action Notification Attention signal are used in connection with a weather emergency, operations shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of section 73.971 (see over) of the rules and regulations and Annexes X and XII of the Detailed State EBS Operational Plans. Such emergency operations shall take precedence over any monitoring and rebroadcasting being conducted under this Public Notice.

The exercise of this blanket authority with regard to the frequencies 162.55 MHz and 162.4 MHz is subject to the following conditions:

1. Messages must be rebroadcast within one hour of receipt from the National Weather Service (Weather Bureau).

2. If advertisements are given in connection with a weather rebroadcast, these advertisements shall not directly or indirectly convey an endorsement by the government of the products or services so advertised.

3. Credit must be given to indicate that the rebroadcast messages originate with the National Weather Service (Weather Bureau).

Action by the Commission October 14, 1970. Commissioners Burch (Chairman), Bartley, Robert E. Lee, Johnson, H. Rex Lee and Wells.

Sent to all broadcast licensees.

DAY-TO-DAY EMERGENCY OPERATION

§ 73.971. DAY-TO-DAY EMERGENCIES POSING A THREAT TO THE SAFETY OF LIFE AND PROPERTY; USE OF ATTENTION SIGNAL

(a) The Emergency Action Notification Attention Signal may be transmitted for the following purposes by all standard, FM and television broadcast stations, at their discretion, in connection with day-to-day emergency situations posing a threat to the safety of life and property:

(1) Activation of State program distribution interconnecting systems and facilities for the origination of emergency cueing announcements and broadcasts

by the management of the State Network Primary Control Station in accordance with previous arrangements and agreement of the State Industry Advisory Committee in day-to-day emergency situations in the public interest. These include both situations where the time element is short, and those which develop slowly. (For example: Tornado warnings or tornado sightings; toxic gases threatening a community; flash floods; widespread fires threatening populated areas; tidal waves; earthquakes; widespread commercial electric power failures; large scale industrial explosions and fires; tornado watches, hurricane watches, and hurricane warnings; civil disorders; heavy rains—developing dangerous flood conditions; icing conditions—developing dangerous road hazards; heavy snows—developing blizzard conditions; appeals for medical assistance and facilities; appeals for emergency food and housing; call-back of off-duty police personnel; call-back of off-duty fire personnel; call-back of off-duty military personnel.)

(2) Activation of Operational Area interconnecting systems and facilities for the origination of emergency cueing announcements and broadcasts by the management of the Primary Broadcast Stations for the Operational Area in accordance with previous arrangements and agreement of the Operational Area Industry Advisory Committee and the State Industry Advisory Committee in day-to-day emergency situations in the public interest. (Examples set forth in subparagraph (1) of this paragraph.)

(b) Stations originating emergency communications under this section shall be deemed to have conferred rebroadcast authority, as required by section 325(a) of the Communications Act, on other participating stations. Neither the notice and certification of consent called for by §§ 73.121(b), 73.291(b), 73.591(b), and 73.655(b), nor prior Commission approval as otherwise required by §§ 73.121(d), 73.291(d), 73.591(c), and 73.655(c) in the case of aural-TV cross-service rebroadcasting, is necessary under these circumstances.

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