

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

In the Matter of
Amendment of Section 73.202(b)
Table of Allotments,
FM Broadcast Stations.
(Lamont and McFarland, California)
MB Docket No. 03-64
RM-10672

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Adopted: March 12, 2003

Released: March 14, 2003

Comment Date: May 5, 2003

Reply Comment Date: May 20, 2003

By the Assistant Chief, Audio Division:

1. The Audio Division has before it for consideration a Petition for Rule Making filed by Dana J. Puopolo ("Petitioner"), proposing the allotment of Channel 247A to Lamont, California, as that community's first local service. In order to accommodate this allotment, the Petitioner also proposes the substitution of Channel 282A for vacant Channel 247A at McFarland, California. Petitioner has stated its intention to apply for Channel 247A at Lamont, if allotted.

2. In support of the proposal, Petitioner states that Lamont is a Census Designated Place located in Southern California. Lamont is an incorporated community with a 2000 U.S. Census population of 13, 296 persons located in Kern County. Lamont has its own police department, district court, post office, zip code and telephone exchange. It has its own newspaper called Lamont Reporter. Lamont also has its own chamber of commerce, school district, child development center, churches, restaurants, and motel.

3. The proposal warrants consideration since the substitution at McFarland would not deprive the community of a second local service and would provide a first local service to the community of Lamont. A staff engineering analysis indicates that Channel 247A can be allotted to Lamont, California, consistent with the minimum distance separation requirements of the Commission's Rules, provided there is a site restriction of 6.5 kilometers (4.1 miles) southeast of the community.1 Furthermore, Channel 282A can be allotted to McFarland, California by using the same reference coordinates as vacant Channel 247A, in conformity with the Commission's Rules, provided there is a site restriction of 10.3 kilometers (6.4 miles) west of the community.2

1 The reference coordinates for Channel 247A at Lamont are 35-12-23 North Latitude and 118-52-57 West Longitude.

2 The reference coordinates for Channel 282A at McFarland are 35-40-16 North Latitude and 119-20-30 West Longitude.

3. Accordingly, we seek comment on the proposed amendments of the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules, as follows:

<u>Community</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Lamont, California	-----	247A
McFarland, California	247A, 275B1	275B1, 282A

4. The Commission's authority to institute rule making proceedings, showings required, cut-off procedures, and filing requirements are contained in the attached Appendix and are incorporated by reference herein. In particular, we note that a showing of continuing interest is required in paragraph 2 of the Appendix before a channel will be allotted.

5. Pursuant to Sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's Rules, interested parties may file comments on or before **May 5, 2003**, and reply comments on or before **May 20, 2003**, and are advised to read the Appendix for the proper procedures. Comments should be filed with the Federal Communications Commission, Office of the Secretary, 445 Twelfth Street, SW, TW-A325, Washington, D.C. 20554. Additionally, a copy of such comments should be served on the petitioner, as follows:

Dana J. Puopolo
2134 Oak Street, Unit C
Santa Monica, CA 90405

6. Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). The Commission's contractor, Vistrionix, Inc., will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Suite 110, Washington, D.C. 20002. The filing hours at this location are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail or Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20554. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

7. The Commission has determined that the relevant provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to a rule making proceeding to amend the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules.³

8. For further information concerning a proceeding listed above, contact Rolanda F. Smith, Media Bureau (202) 418-2180. For purposes of this restricted notice and comment rule making proceeding, members of the public are advised that no *ex parte* presentations are permitted from the time the Commission adopts a Notice of Proposed Rule Making until the proceeding has been decided and

³ See *Certification that Section 603 and 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act Do Not Apply to Rule Making to Amend Sections 73.202(b), 73.504 and 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules*. 46 FR 11549 (February 9, 1981).

such decision in the applicable docket is no longer subject to reconsideration by the Commission or review by any court. An *ex parte* presentation is not prohibited if specifically requested by the Commission or staff for the clarification or adduction of evidence or resolution of issues in the proceeding. However, any new written information elicited from such a request or any summary of any new information shall be served by the person making the presentation upon the other parties to the proceeding in particular docket unless the Commission specifically waives this service requirement. Any comment which has not been served on the petitioner constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding. Any reply comment which has not been served on the person(s) who filed the comment, to which the reply is directed, constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

John A. Karousos
Assistant Chief, Audio Division
Media Bureau

Attachment: Appendix

APPENDIX

1. Pursuant to authority found in Sections 4(i), 5(c)(1), 303(g) and (r), and 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Sections 0.61, 0.204(b) and 0.283 of the Commission's Rules, IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, as set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached.

2. Showings Required. Comments are invited on the proposal(s) discussed in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. Proponent(s) will be expected to answer whatever questions are presented in initial comments. The proponent of a proposed allotment is also expected to file comments even if it only resubmits or incorporates by reference its former pleadings. It should also restate its present intention to apply for the channel if it is allotted and, if authorized, to build a station promptly. Failure to file may lead to denial of the request.

3. Cut-off protection. The following procedures will govern the consideration of filings in this proceeding.

(a) Counterproposals advanced in this proceeding itself will be considered, if advanced in initial comments, so that parties may comment on them in reply comments. They will not be considered if advanced in reply comments. (See Section 1.420(d) of the Commission's Rules).

(b) With respect to petitions for rule making which conflict with the proposals in this *Notice*, they will be considered as comments in the proceeding, and Public Notice to this effect will be given as long as they are filed before the date for filing initial comments herein. If they are filed later than that, they will not be considered in connection with the decision in this docket.

(c) The filing of a counterproposal may lead the Commission to allot a different channel than was requested for any of the communities involved.

4. Comments and Reply Comments; Service. Pursuant to applicable procedures set out in Sections 1.415 and 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. All submissions by parties to this proceeding or by persons acting on behalf of such parties must be made in written comments, reply comments, or other appropriate pleadings. Comments shall be served on the petitioner by the person filing the comments. Reply comments shall be served on the person(s) who filed comments to which the reply is directed. Such comments and reply comments shall be accompanied by a certificate of service. (See Section 1.420(a), (b) and (c) of the Commission's Rules.) Comments should be filed with the Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., TW-A325, Washington, D.C. 20554.

5. Number of Copies. In accordance with the provisions of Section 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, an original and four copies of all comments, reply comments, pleadings, briefs, or other documents shall be furnished the Commission.

6. Public Inspection of Filings. All filings made in this proceeding will be available for examination by interested parties during regular business hours in the Commission's Reference Information Center (Room CY-A257) at its headquarters, 445 12th Street, S.W, Washington, D.C.