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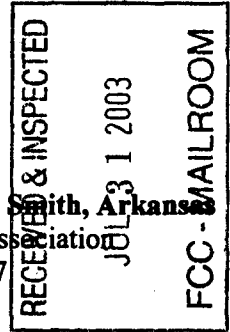
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

JUL 29 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1800B3-ARE

Donald E. Wildmon, President
American Family Association
P.O. Drawer 2440
Tupelo, MS 38803

In Re: KAOW(FM), Fort Smith, Arkansas
American Family Association
Facility ID No. 1617



Request for Waiver of 47 C.F.R. §
73.1125 (Main Studio Rule)

Dear Mr. Wildmon:

The staff has under consideration the referenced July 11, 2003 request for a waiver of the Commission's main studio requirement, 47 C.F. R. Section 73.1125, filed by American Family Association ("AFA"). In this request, AFA seeks a waiver of Section 73.1125 in order to operate KAOW(FM) as a "satellite" station of its noncommercial educational FM station WAFR(FM), Tupelo, Mississippi.¹ For the reasons set forth below, we will waive Section 73.1125.

Pursuant to Section 73.1125(a), a main studio must be located either (1) within a station's community of license, (2) within the principal community contour of any other broadcast station licensed to its community, or (3) within 25 miles of the center of its community of license.² However, under Section 73.1125(b)(2), the Commission will waive these requirements where good cause exists to do so and where the proposed studio location would be consistent with the operation of the station in the public interest. Each waiver request by an NCE station seeking to operate as the satellite of another NCE station is considered on a case-by-case basis. The Commission has recognized the benefits of centralized operation for NCE stations, given their limited funding, and thus found good cause exists to waive the main studio location requirement where satellite operations are proposed.³ A satellite station must, however, demonstrate that it will meet its local service obligation to satisfy the Section 73.1125 public interest standard.⁴

¹ A "satellite" station meets all of the Commission's technical rules. However, it originates no programming and instead rebroadcasts the parent station's programming. See *Amendment of Multiple Ownership Rules, Memorandum Opinion and Order*, 3 RR2d 1554, 1562 (1964).

² See *Review of the Commission's Rules Regarding the Main Studio and Local Public Inspection Files of Broadcast Television and Radio Stations*, 13 FCC Rcd 15691 (1998), *recon. granted in part*, 14 FCC Rcd 11113 (1999) ("Reconsideration Order").

³ *Id.*

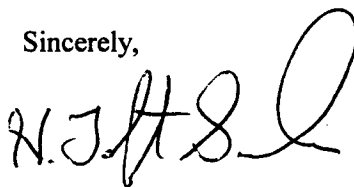
⁴ *Id.*

AFA's request is based on the economies of scale which would be realized by grant of its waiver. We agree and conclude that there is good cause to waive 47 C.F.R. Section 73.1125(a) under these circumstances. AFA proposes to operate KAOW(FM), Fort Smith, Arkansas, as a satellite station of WAFR(FM), Tupelo, Mississippi, approximately 333 miles from Fort Smith. Where there is considerable distance between the parent and the satellite station, and where the parent and satellite station are in different states, as here, we are particularly concerned that the licensee takes adequate measures to maintain its awareness of the satellite community's needs and interests. To that end, AFA has pledged to meet its local service obligations by: (1) adding to its Community Advisory Board at least one resident of Fort Smith who will be asked to provide recommendations on community needs and programming directly to the management of AFA; (2) soliciting listeners' opinions regarding community issues that should be addressed during program planning during each regular "Shareathon" (pledge drives normally held every six months); (3) factoring those responses into its planning of the program schedule and the issues to be addressed; (4) providing periodic local programming for Fort Smith, including coverage of significant local news or cultural events; (5) providing for the broadcast of local public service announcements; and (6) maintaining a public file within the community of license and a toll-free number from Fort Smith to Tupelo.

In these circumstances, we are persuaded that AFA will meet its local service obligation and, thus, that grant of the requested waiver is consistent with the public interest. We remind AFA, however, of the requirement that it maintain a public file for the Fort Smith, Arkansas, station at the main studio of the "parent" station, WAFR(FM), Tupelo, Mississippi. It must also make reasonable accommodation for listeners wishing to examine the file's contents.⁵ We further remind AFA that, notwithstanding the grant of waiver requested here, the public file for KAOW(FM) must contain the quarterly issues and programs list for Fort Smith, Arkansas, as required by C.F.R. Section 73.3527(e)(8).

Accordingly, the request made by American Family Association for waiver of 47 C.F.R. Section 73.1125, IS GRANTED.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Taft Snowden", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

H. Taft Snowden
Supervisory Attorney
Audio Division
Media Bureau

⁵ See *Reconsideration Order*, 14 FCC Rcd at 11129.