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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20554
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Marsha A. Shrader, Technical Consultant
American Family Association
P.O. Drawer 2440
Tupelo, MS 38801

In re: **WPWV(FM), Princeton, WV**
Facility ID # 89629
File No. **BMPEd-20020925AAL**
Request for Waiver of 47 C.F.R. §73.1125

Dear Ms. Shrader:

The staff has under consideration: (1) the captioned application (File No. BMPEd-20020925AAL) of American Family Association ("AFA") for minor modification of the construction permit for Station WPWV(FM), Princeton, West Virginia. The application includes a request for waiver of the Commission's main studio rule, 47 C.F.R. §73.1125, in order to operate WPWV(FM) as a "satellite" of AFA's station WAFR(FM), Tupelo, Mississippi.¹ For the reasons set forth below, we will grant AFA's request for waiver and its modification application.

Main studio waiver request. Pursuant to Section 73.1125, a station's main studio must be located either (1) within a station's principal community contour; (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.² However, under Section 73.1125(b)(2), the Commission will waive this requirement 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 operations for NCE stations, given their limited funding, and thus has found that "good cause" exists to waive the main studio location requirement where satellite operations are proposed.³ In

¹A "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 RR 2d 1554, 1562 (1964).

² See *Report and Order, Review of the Commission's Rules regarding the main studio and local public inspection files of broadcast and radio stations*, 13 FCC Rcd 15,691 (1998); *recon. granted in part*, 14 FCC Rcd 11,113 (1999) ("Reconsideration Order").

³ *Id.*

order to receive a satellite main studio waiver, an applicant must demonstrate that it will meet its local service obligation to satisfy the Section 73.1125 "public interest" standard.⁴

AFA's request is based on the economies of scale which would be realized by grant of its waiver, *i.e.*, avoiding the cost of equipping, operating, and staffing a main studio in the Princeton, West Virginia area. We conclude that AFA has demonstrated "good cause" to waive 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125(a)(4) in these circumstances. As noted above, AFA proposes to operate WPWV(FM) as a satellite of co-owned station WAFR(FM), Tupelo, Mississippi. Tupelo is approximately 478 miles from Princeton. Where there is a considerable distance between parent and satellite stations and where, as here, the parent and satellite stations are in different states, we are particularly concerned that the licensee take adequate measures to maintain its awareness of the satellite community's needs and interests and respond to them in its programming. To that end, AFA has stated that it will: (1) add to its Community Advisory Board at least one resident from Princeton, who will provide recommendations on community needs and programming directly to AFA management; (2) solicit listeners' opinions regarding community issues that should be addressed in AFA's program planning during each regular "Shareathon" (pledge drives held every six months); (3) provide periodic local programming for Princeton, including coverage of significant local news and cultural events; and (4) provide for the broadcast of public service announcements pertinent to Princeton residents. Additionally, AFA pledges to maintain a toll-free telephone line from Princeton to the WAFR(FM) studio.

In these circumstances, we are persuaded that AFA will meet its local service obligations 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 WPWV(FM) 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 the waiver requested here, the public file for WPWV(FM) must contain the quarterly issues and programs list for Princeton, West Virginia, required by 47 C.F.R. Section 73.3527(e)(8).


Modification application. We have also examined AFA's modification application and find that it complies with all pertinent statutory and regulatory requirements and thus that the public interest, convenience, and necessity would be furthered by its grant.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ See *Reconsideration Order*, 14 FCC Rcd at 11,129 ¶ 45.

In accordance with these findings, and in reliance upon the representations listed above, the application (File No. BMPED-20020925AAL) of American Family Association for modification of the permit of station WPWV(FM), Princeton, West Virginia, and its request for waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125 ARE GRANTED. The authorization is enclosed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter H. Doyle', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter H. Doyle, Chief
Audio Division
Media Bureau