

M. Wagner
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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Donald E. Wildmon,
President
American Family Association
P.O. Drawer 3206
107 Parkgate
Tupelo, Mississippi 38803

In Re: KBPG(FM) Montevideo, Minnesota
American Family Association
Facility ID No. 91479
Request for Waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125
(Main Studio Rule)

Dear Mr. Wildmon:

The staff has under consideration the above-referenced November 14, 2001, request for a waiver of the Commission's main studio requirement, 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125, made by American Family Association ("AFA").¹ AFA seeks a waiver of Section 73.1125 in order to operate KBPG(FM), Montevideo, Minnesota, as a "satellite" of its noncommercial educational ("NCE") FM station, WAFR(FM), Tupelo, Mississippi.² For the reasons set forth below, we will waive Section 73.1125 and grant AFA's request.

Main Studio Waiver. Pursuant to Section 73.1125(a), a main studio must be located either (1) within a station's principal community contour, (2) within the contour of any other broadcast station licensed to its community, or (3) within 25 miles of the center of its community. See *Report and Order, Review of the Commission's Rules regarding the main studio and local public inspection files of broadcast television and radio stations*, 13 FCC Rcd 15,691 (1998); *recon. granted in part*, 14 FCC Rcd 11,113 (1999) ("Reconsideration Order"). 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 operations 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. *Id.* A satellite station must,

¹ AFA supplemented waiver required on May 1, 2002.

² A "satellite" station meets all of the Commission's technical rules. However, it originates no programming and instead broadcast the parent station's programming. See amendment of Multiple Ownership Rules, *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, 3RR2d 1554, 1562 (1964).


however, demonstrate that it will meet its local service obligation to satisfy the Section 73.1125 "public interest" standard. *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. § 73.1125(a)(4) under these circumstances. AFA proposes to operate KBPG(FM), Montevideo, Minnesota as a satellite station of WAFR(FM), Tupelo, Mississippi, approximately 1.067 miles from Montevideo, Minnesota. Where there is great distance between the parent and the satellite station, 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: (1) has pledged to add to its Community Advisory Board at least one resident of Montevideo who will be asked to provide recommendations on community needs and programming directly to the management of Family; (2) will, during each "Shareathon" pledge drive held every six months, solicit listeners' opinions regarding community issues that should be addressed during program planning; (3) will provide periodic local programming for Montevideo, including coverage of significant local news or cultural events; and (4) will maintain a toll-free telephone number, as required by Section 73.1125(d) of the rules, and maintain a public inspection file for the station within the Montevideo community.

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 Montevideo, Minnesota 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. *See Reconsideration Order*, 14 FCC Rcd at 11,129, ¶45. We further remind AFA that, notwithstanding the grant of the waiver requested here, the public file for KBPG(FM) station must contain the quarterly issues and programs list for Montevideo, Minnesota as required by 47 C.F.R. § 73.3527(e)(8).

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

Sincerely,



PHD
Peter H. Doyle, Chief
Audio Division
Media Bureau