

Mr. Wagner  
2-A523

FCC MAIL ROOM

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20554**

August 24, 2001

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**IN REPLY REFER TO:  
1800B3-MH**

**RECEIVED**

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

In Re: KAOG(FM) Jonesboro, Arkansas  
American Family Association, Inc.  
Facility ID No. 1673  
Request for Waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125  
(Main Studio Rule)

Dear Mr. Wildmon:

The staff has under consideration the above-referenced request for a waiver of the Commission's main studio requirement, 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125, made by American Family Association, Inc. ("AFA"). AFA seeks a waiver of Section 73.1125 in order to operate KAOG(FM), Jonesboro, Arkansas, as a satellite of its noncommercial educational ("NCE") station, KANX(FM), Sheridan, Arkansas.<sup>1</sup> For the reasons set forth below, we will waive Section 73.1125 and grant AFA's request.

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, however, demonstrate that it will

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

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.<sup>2</sup> 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 KAOG(FM), Jonesboro, Arkansas as a satellite station of KANX(FM), Sheridan, Arkansas, approximately 210 miles from Jonesboro. 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 Jonesboro who will be asked to provide recommendations on community needs and programming directly to the management of Family; (2) will, at least annually, conduct interviews with residents and community leaders to assess community needs and programming; (3) will provide periodic local programming for Jonesboro, including coverage of significant local news or cultural events; and (4) will maintain its public file within the community of license and 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 Jonesboro 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 Jonesboro, Arkansas station at the main studio of the "parent" station, KANX(FM), Sheridan, Arkansas. 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 KAOG(FM) station must contain the quarterly issues and programs list for Jonesboro, Arkansas required by 47 C.F.R. § 73.3527(e)(8).

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

Sincerely,



Peter H. Doyle, Chief  
Audio Services Division  
Mass Media Bureau

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<sup>2</sup> In an amendment filed on June 21, 2001, AFA stated that it had maintained a main studio in Jonesboro, Arkansas since the station was built in 1996. In 1999, AFA was granted permission to move its transmitter to a new tower site. AFA installed an integrated service digital network (ISDN) between the studio and the new transmitter; however, the ISDN line has experienced repeated problems that the telephone company has been unable to cure. To improve the reliability and quality of broadcast service provided to Jonesboro, AFA has requested a waiver of the main studio location requirement.