

M. Wagner  
2-8450

MAIL ROOM  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
**WASHINGTON, DC 20554**

April 23, 2001

2001 APR 23 P 4:03

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

Vic Brown, President  
Missouri River Christian Broadcasting, Inc.  
Post Office Box 87  
Washington, MO 63090

In Re: KGNN-FM, Cuba, Missouri  
Missouri River Christian Broadcasting, Inc.  
Facility ID No. 43313  
Request for Waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125  
(Main Studio Rule)

Dear Mr. Brown:

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 Missouri River Christian Broadcasting, Inc. ("MRCB"). MRCB seeks a waiver of Section 73.1125 in order to operate KGNN(FM), Cuba, Missouri as a satellite of its noncommercial educational ("NCE") station, KGNV(FM), Washington, Missouri.<sup>1</sup> For the reasons set forth below, we will waive Section 73.1125 and grant MRCB'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) with 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

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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).


operations are proposed. *Id.* A satellite station must, however, demonstrate that it will meet its local service obligation to satisfy the Section 73.1125 "public interest" standard. *Id.*

MRCB'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. MRCB proposes to operate KGNN(FM), Cuba, Missouri as a satellite station of KGNV(FM), Washington, Missouri, approximately 41 miles from Cuba. Where there is a great distance between the parent and satellite station, as here, we are particularly concerned that the licensee take adequate measures to maintain its awareness of the satellite community's needs and interests. To that end, MRCB has pledged that: (1) at least once a year, MRCB will contact persons on its mailing lists within the station's coverage area and solicit their problems, needs, and interests and then address the resultant issues through programming; (2) it will broadcast local public service announcements over KGNN(FM); and (3) it will maintain a toll-free telephone number for the use of the residents in Cuba, Missouri. MRCB also states that it will not operate KGNN(FM) strictly as a satellite station, as it will retain and periodically use its existing production and transmission facilities at 606 West Myrtle in Cuba.

In these circumstances, we are persuaded that MRCB will meet its local service obligation and thus, that grant of the requested waiver is consistent with the public interest. We remind MRCB, however, of the requirement that it maintain a public file for the Cuba, Missouri station at the main studio of the "parent" station, KGNV(FM), Washington, Missouri. It must also make reasonable accommodation for listeners wishing to examine the file's contents. *See Reconsideration Order*, 14 FCC Rcd 11,113, 11,129 at ¶45. We further remind MRCB that, notwithstanding the grant of the waiver requested here, the public file for KGNN(FM) must contain the quarterly issues and programs list for Cuba, Missouri required by 47 C.F.R. § 73.3527(e)(8).

Accordingly, the request made by the Missouri River Christian Broadcasting, Inc. for a waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125 IS GRANTED.

Sincerely,

  
Linda Blair, Chief  
Audio Services Division  
Mass Media Bureau