

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20554**

August 4, 2005

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1800B3-EEB

Donald E. Wildmon, Chairman
P.O. Box 3206
107 Parkgate
Tupelo, MS. 38803

In re: KBCX(FM), Big Spring, Texas
Facility ID No. 82866
American Family Radio

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

Dear Mr. Wildmon:

The staff has under consideration the referenced July 14, 2004, request for a waiver of the Commission's main studio requirement, 47 C.F.R. Section 73.1125, filed by American Family Radio ("AFR"). In the request, AFR seeks a waiver of Section 73.1125 in order to operate KBCX(FM), Big Spring, Texas, 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 and grant AFR's request.

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 a 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

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 to 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").

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

AFR's request is based in the economies scale which would be realized by grant of its waiver, *e.g.*, avoiding the cost of equipping, staffing and operating a studio in the Big Spring area. We agree and conclude that there is good cause to waive 47 C.F.R. Section 73.1125(a) under these circumstances. As noted above, AFR proposes to operate KBCX(FM) as a satellite of WAFR(FM), Tupelo, Mississippi, approximately 757 miles from Big Spring, Texas. Where there is a 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 permittee takes adequate measures to maintain its awareness of the satellite community's needs and interests. To that end, AFR has pledged to meet its local service obligations by: (1) adding to its Community Advisory Board at least one resident of Big Spring will be asked to provide recommendations on community needs and programming directly to the management of AFR; (2) soliciting listeners' opinions regarding community issues that should be addressed and program planning during each regular "Shareathon" (pledge drives normally held every six months); (3) tracking these listener responses by community and factoring them into its planning of the program schedule and the issues to be addressed; (4) providing periodic local programming for Big Spring including coverage of significant local news or cultural events; (5) providing for the broadcast of local public service announcements; and (6) maintaining its public file within the community of license and a toll-free number from Big Spring to Tupelo.

In these circumstances, we are persuaded that AFR will meet its local service obligation and, thus, grant of the requested waiver is consistent with the public interest. We remind AFR, however, of the requirement that it maintain a public file for KBCX(FM) 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 AFR that, notwithstanding the grant of waiver requested here, the public file for WAFR(FM) must contain the quarterly issues and program list for KBCX(FM), as required by C.F.R. Section 73.3527(e)(8).

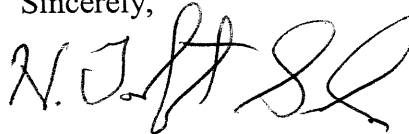
³ *Id*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *See Reconsideration Order*, 14FCC Rcd at 11129, Paragraph 45.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Taft Snowdon". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "H." being prominent and the last name "Snowdon" written in a flowing script.

H. Taft Snowdon
Supervisory Attorney
Audio Division
Media Bureau