

33  
(#7845)

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

**FEB 03 1999**

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
1800B3-ALM

Patrick J. Vaughn, Esquire  
Assistant General Counsel  
American Family Association  
Post Office Drawer 2440  
Tupelo, Mississippi 38803

Re: Modification of facilities, WJZB(FM), Starkville, Mississippi, BPED-980316MC

Dear Mr. Vaughn:

The staff has under consideration the application of American Family Association ("AFA") for a construction permit to modify the facilities of noncommercial educational ("NCE") FM station WJZB(FM), Starkville, Mississippi (File No. BPED-980316MC). AFA has requested a waiver of the Commission's main studio requirement, *See* 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125, in order to operate the Starkville station as a satellite of its NCE station WAFR(FM), Tupelo, Mississippi.<sup>1</sup> For the reasons set forth below, we will waive 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125 and grant AFA's application for modification of construction permit.

Section 73.1125(a) requires each broadcast station to maintain a main studio within the station's principal community contour to ensure that the station will serve the needs and interests of the residents of its community of license. *Amendment of Sections 73.1125 and 73.1130*, 3 FCC Rcd 5024, 5027 (1988). However, under Section 73.1125(a)(4), 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 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 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) in these circumstances. AFA proposes to operate WJZB(FM), Starkville, Mississippi as a satellite of WAFR(FM), Tupelo, Mississippi, approximately 60 miles from


---


<sup>1</sup>A "satellite" 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).

Starkville. Where there is a great distance between parent and satellite stations, 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, AFA has pledged to: (1) add to its Community Advisory Board at least one resident of Starkville who will be asked to provide recommendations on community needs and programming to AFA management; (2) at least annually, conduct interviews with residents and community leaders to assess community needs and programming; (3) provide periodical local programming for Starkville including coverage of significant local news or cultural events; (4) provide for the broadcast of local public service announcements; (5) maintain a toll-free telephone number between Starkville and the WAFR(FM) main studio in Tupelo; and (6) maintain the WJZB(FM) public inspection file in Starkville. 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.

Accordingly, the application of American Family Association, Inc. for a construction permit to modify the facilities of WJZB(FM), BPED-980316MC and its request for waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125 ARE GRANTED.

Sincerely,



Linda Blair, Chief   
Audio Services Division  
Mass Media Bureau