

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20554

NOV 17 1997

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
1800B3-ALM

Ms. Kristy McFarland  
Station Manager  
North Fork Valley Public Radio, Inc.  
213 Grand Avenue, P. O. Box 1350  
Paonia, Colorado 81428-1350

Re: New Educational FM station in Montrose, Colorado File No. BPED-970224MA

Dear Ms. McFarland:

The staff has under consideration the application of North Fork Valley Public Radio, Inc. ("North Fork") to construct a new noncommercial, educational FM station in Montrose, Colorado (File No. BPED-970224MA). North Fork requests waiver of the Commission's main studio requirement, see 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125, in order to operate the proposed Montrose facility as a satellite of commonly owned NCE station KVNF-FM, Paonia, Colorado.<sup>1</sup> For the reasons set forth below, we will waive 47 C.F.R § 73.1125 and grant North Fork's application for a 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.

North Fork'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. North Fork proposes to operate the proposed Montrose station as a satellite of KVNF-FM, Paonia, Colorado, approximately 40 miles from

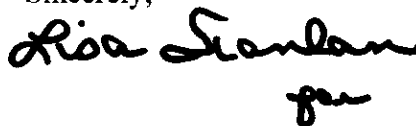
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<sup>1</sup>A "satellite" station meets all of the Commission's technical rules; however, it originates no programming and instead rebroadcasts the parent station's programming. See Amendment of Multiple Ownership Rules, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 3 RR2d 1554, 1562 (1964).

Montrose. The Commission expects the licensee of a satellite station to take adequate measures to maintain its awareness of the satellite community's needs and interests. To that end, North Fork has pledged to: (1) hold on-air interviews with prominent community members from Montrose; (2) place a member of the Montrose community on its board of directors; (3) subscribe to the daily Montrose newspaper and extract events for daily public service announcements; (4) establish a radio production facility in Montrose for students in the Montrose School District; and (5) establish a toll free telephone number from Montrose to the KVNF-FM main studio in Paonia. We also remind North Fork that it must maintain a public file for the new station in Montrose, as required by 47 C.F.R. § 73.3527(d) In these circumstances, we are persuaded that Foundation will meet its local service obligations and thus, that grant of the requested waiver is consistent with the public interest.

Accordingly, the application of North Fork Valley Public Radio, Inc. for a new educational FM station in Montrose Colorado (File No. BPED-970224MA) and the request for waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125 ARE HEREBY GRANTED. The authorization will be forwarded under separate cover.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Blair". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Linda Blair, Chief  
Audio Services Division  
Mass Media Bureau