

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

MAR 11 1997

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1800B3-ALM

Jeffrey D. Southmayd, Esq.
Southmayd & Miller
1220 Nineteenth Street, N.W.
Suite 400
Washington, D. C. 20036

Re: Modification of facilities of WCIE-FM, Lakeland, Florida, BPED-961001IA

Dear Mr. Southmayd:

The staff has under consideration the application of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago ("Moody") for a construction permit for noncommercial educational ("NCE") FM station WCIE-FM, Lakeland, Florida (File No. BPED-961001IA). Moody has requested a waiver of the Commission's main studio requirement, see 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125, in order to operate WCIE-FM as a satellite of its NCE station WKES(FM) in St. Petersburg.¹ For the reasons set forth below, we will waive 47 C.F.R § 73.1125 and grant Moody'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.

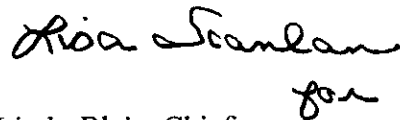
Moody's request is based on the economies of scale which would be realized by grant of its waiver. We agree and conclude that there is "good cause" to waive 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125(a)(4) in these circumstances. Moody proposes to operate the Lakeland station as a satellite of WKES(FM), St. Petersburg, Florida, approximately 50 miles from Lakeland. Where there is a great distance between parent and satellite stations, as here, we are

¹A "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).

particularly concerned that the licensee take adequate measures to maintain its awareness of the satellite community's needs and interests. To that end, Moody has pledged to: (1) ascertain the community needs of Lakeland by having a Moody management employee from St. Petersburg periodically visit Lakeland; (2) establish a local WCIE-FM Citizens Advisory Broad made up of volunteer residents of the Lakeland area which will assist Moody in formulating specific program response to the problems, needs and interest of that community and which will meet at least twice a year with the St. Petersburg management official during that individual's visits to Lakeland; (3) address the problems, needs, and interests of Lakeland through separate news broadcasts, public service announcements and public affairs programming relating to Lakeland to be broadcast on WCIE-FM; (4) maintain a toll-free telephone number between Lakeland and the WCIE-FM main studio in St. Petersburg, Florida; and (5) maintain a public inspection file for the station at a location in Lakeland. In these circumstances, we are persuaded that Moody will meet its local service obligations and thus, that grant of the requested waiver is consistent with the public interest.

Accordingly, the application of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago for a construction permit to modify the facilities of WCIE-FM, BPED-961001IA, and its request for waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125 ARE GRANTED. The authorization will be forwarded under separate cover.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Blair" followed by a small flourish.

Linda Blair, Chief
Audio Services Division
Mass Media Bureau