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## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20554

DJS

10/31/94

OCT 31 1994

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
1800B3-ALM

Mr. John S. Batson  
General Manager  
University of New Orleans  
Radio Station WWNO - Lakefront  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70148

In re: NEW, Thibodaux, LA  
Board of Supervisors  
Louisiana State Univ. &  
Agricultural and  
Mechanical College  
File No. BPED-931018MC

Dear Mr. Batson:

This refers to the above-captioned application filed by the Board of Supervisors, Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College ("Supervisors") for a construction permit for a new noncommercial, educational FM in Thibodaux. The application includes a request for waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125 (the Commission's main studio rule) to allow Supervisors to operate Thibodaux facility as a satellite station of commonly owned station WWNO(FM), New Orleans, Louisiana.<sup>1</sup> Supervisors' request for waiver is based on its realization that, "given the realities of funding for public broadcasting, it would be impossible to provide public radio service to Thibodaux without the economies of scale achieved by a shared main studio."

In order to ensure that local issues in Thibodaux will be met, Supervisors has agreed to undertake the following:

1. Establish a community advisory board composed of residents of the Thibodaux area, to provide recommendations on community needs and programming for the station. They will also direct station staff to maintain personal contact with residents of the Thibodaux area through attendance at meetings of cultural and civic groups. The station will develop programming for the Thibodaux area in accordance with the needs ascertained through these meetings.
2. The station will provide coverage of significant

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<sup>1</sup>An amendment to its request for waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125 was filed by Supervisors on September 29, 1994.

cultural, educational, and arts events in Thibodaux and surrounding areas in addition to its current programming of national and world news and features.

3. As appropriate, the station will record concerts performed in Thibodaux for later broadcast.


4. A toll free number will be established between Thibodaux and the station's main studio in New Orleans.

A "satellite station has been defined by the Commission as one "operating on a channel specified in the .... Table of Assignments and meeting all of the technical requirements of our rules, but one which usually originates no local programming .... It rebroadcasts the programming of the parent station." Multiple Ownership Rules, 3 RR 2d 1554, 1562 (1964). Satellite stations involve deviations from such Commission regulations as station main studio locations.

The Commission has stated that "we have recognized the benefits of centralized operations for noncommercial educational stations, given the limited funding available to these stations, and we have granted waivers to state and regional public television and radio networks to operate 'satellite' stations that do not necessarily meet the requirements of a main studio. These stations, however, have not been permitted to ignore local service obligations, and waivers generally have been granted only upon a showing that the local community would be served." Memorandum Opinion and Order in MM Docket No. 86-406, 3 FCC Rcd 5024 (1988). Thus, local needs should be met by this applicant.

We have determined that Supervisors has established that its centrally programmed simultaneous schedule will serve the problems, needs and interests of Thibodaux, Louisiana. Accordingly, 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125(a)(4) IS HEREBY WAIVED to the extent indicated herein. Lastly, Supervisor's application to construct a new, noncommercial FM station in Thibodaux, being in all respect acceptable, IS HEREBY GRANTED. The construction permit authorization will be forwarded under separate cover.

Sincerely,



Dennis Williams *for*  
Chief, FM Branch  
Audio Services Division  
Mass Media Bureau