

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20554

December 20, 2011

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1800B3-VM

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Denise B. Moline, Esq.
358 Pines Blvd.
Lake Villa, IL 60046

In re: WQOM(AM), Natick, MA
Facility ID No. 21109
Operational Status Inquiry

Dear Ms. Moline:

It has come to our attention that Station WQOM(AM), Natick, Massachusetts, is currently off the air. Our records reveal that the station went silent on September 15, 2010, and on November 23, 2010, we granted it an STA to remain silent until May 22, 2011.¹ We have not received a notification of resumption of operations or a request to extend the STA since that date. Pursuant to Section 73.1740 of the Commission's Rules ("Rules"), you are required to clarify this matter in writing within thirty days of the date of this letter.

We note that Holy Family Communications, Inc. ("Holy Family"), licensee of Station WQOM(AM), recently filed a license application, File No. BL-20111212CVV, to cover Construction Permit BMP-20100811ABC. This application is under review. In its license application, Holy Family indicates that it is not operating pursuant to automatic program test authority as provided in Section 73.1620 of the Rules, and it requests program test authority pursuant to Section 73.1620(a)(4).² Holy Family does indicate that it conducted field strength measurements from March 19, 2011, through April 18, 2011.

Section 73.1635(a)(4) of the Rules provides that licensees may request an extension of time to remain silent if necessary after the initial 180 days have expired. In addition, Section 73.1740(a)(4) requires licensees to inform the Commission if the station resumes operation. We have no record of either request from Holy Family for Station WQOM(AM). Also, as we noted in the original STA grant, **the broadcast license for Station WQOM(AM) will automatically expire as a matter of law if broadcast operations do not commence by 12:01 a.m., on September 16, 2011.** Additionally, Construction Permit BMP-20100811ABC contained a Special Operating Condition reminding Holy Family of the requirement that Station WQOM(AM) resume operation before September 15, 2011, or its license would expire as a matter of law.³

¹ James A. Wright, Letter, Ref. No. 1800B3-KLJ (November 23, 2010).

² Section 73.1620(a)(4) requires the permittee of an AM Station with a directional antenna system to request program test authority in its application for license. There is no automatic program test authority provision for stations authorized to use a directional AM antenna system.

³ See Section 312(g) of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 312(g).

If station WQOM(AM) resumed and then suspended operations, please indicate the dates broadcasts resumed and ceased and the necessity for taking the station off-air. Please note that any station silence over thirty days requires the filing of a request for Special Temporary Authority to operate at variance with the Commission's minimum operating schedule requirements.⁴ Certification pursuant to Section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 must accompany any request for special temporary authority. Finally, we note that it is imperative to the safety of air navigation that any prescribed painting and illumination of the station's tower shall be maintained.⁵

Failure to respond to this letter within the specified time will result in adverse actions jeopardizing both the station's license and call letters. If you have any questions concerning the content of this letter, please contact Victoria McCauley, Attorney, by phone (202-418-2136), fax (202-418-1411), or e-mail (Victoria.McCauley@fcc.gov).

Sincerely,



Lisa A. Scanlan
Assistant Chief, Audio Division
Media Bureau

⁴ See 47 C.F.R. Section 73.1635 (Special temporary authorizations) and 47 C.F.R. Section 73.1740(a) (Minimum operating schedule).

⁵ See 47 C.F.R. Sections 17.6 and 73.1740(a)(4).