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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20554

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

1800B3-ALM

DISPATCHED BY

Mr. Dennis Haarsager, General Manager
Northwest Public Radio & Television
Murrow Communications Center
Pullman, Washington 99164

In re: New FM Service in Omak, Washington, File Number BPED-960325MB

Dear Mr. Haarsager:

The staff has under consideration the application of Washington State University ("University") to construct a new noncommercial educational ("NCE") FM station in Omak, Washington, File No. BPED-960325MB. University requests waiver of the Commission's main studio requirement, see 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125,¹ in order to operate the Omak station as a satellite of its NCE station KWSU(AM), Pullman, Washington. For the reasons set forth below, we will waive 47 C.F.R § 73.1125 and grant University'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.

University'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. University proposes to operate the Omak station as a satellite of KWSU(AM), Pullman, Washington, approximately 200 miles from Omak. 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

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).

the satellite community's needs and interests. To that end, University has pledged to: (1) Give priority to filling vacancies on its 17-member community advisory board from the new station's proposed coverage area; (2) make periodic visits to the Omak area in an effort to understand and respond to the issues and concerns of the community; (3) maintain a full-time news reporter in Richmond, Washington, whose beat includes central Washington and to the extent that issues and concerns of the Omak community are different than those of the main studio location, every effort will be made to cover those issues; (3) subscribe to the "Omak/Okanogan Chronicle", the local newspaper; (4) maintain the public inspection file at the Omak Public Library; and (5) maintain a toll-free telephone number between Omak and the proposed station's main studio in Pullman, Washington.

Accordingly, the application of Washington State University for a new noncommercial educational FM station in Omak, Washington (File No. BPED-960325MB) and its request for waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125 ARE GRANTED. The authorization will be forwarded under separate cover.

Sincerely,

Linda Blair

Linda Blair, Chief
Audio Services Division
Mass Media Bureau

A. J. [unclear]