

WQMS

BROADCASTING STATION HISTORY RECORD

First licensed

Call Letters . . . W Q M S

Station Location . . . ALABASTER, ALABAMA

Name . . . METROSOUTH BROADCASTING, INC.

Transmitter Location . . . 0.4 miles SW of intersection of Industrial Road, & US 31, ALABASTER, ALAB.
(P 4-23-81)

Main studio location . . . to be determined, Alabaster, Alabama(P-4-23-81)

Authorization Record

File No.	Granted	Facilities	Expires
BP-800923AA (L)	4-23-81	1500khz -- 1kw DAYTIME CP FOR NEW AM STATION	
BP-800923AA (1)	7-27-81	CALL LETTERS ASSIGNED & EBSA ISSUED.	

APPLICATION RECORD-BROADCASTING

Call Letters: WQMS
NEW

Name: METROSOUTH BROADCASTING, INC.

Station Location: ALABASTER, ALABAMA (302 Euclid Avenue Birmingham, AL, 35213)

File No.	Date	Description	Action and Date
BP-800923AA (C)		CP for new AM on: Frequency: 1500kHz Power: 1kw Hours of operation: Daytime TL: 0.4 miles SW of Intersection of Industrial Rd., & U.S. 31, Alabaster, AL SL&RC: To be determined 33o 15' 09" 86o 49' 14"	GRANTED 4-23-81 Con'd
ACCEPTED CUT OFF DATE	11-28-80 01-05-81		
AMENDED	10-27-80	Public Notice	
AMENDED	3-24-81	Section III, Financial data	
	4-17-81	Financial Data	

About the History Cards ...

History Cards were first used by the Department of Commerce to keep track of applications filed by, and changes to, the earliest AM broadcast stations in the early 1920s. The records were subsequently transferred to the Federal Radio Commission in 1927, and after that to the Federal Communications Commission when that agency was created in 1934. These cards gradually grew into a large card file. History Cards remained in use until the creation of the first computerized database in 1980 to track broadcast applications, the Broadcast Application Processing System (BAPS). However, the Commission did not transfer the data from the History Cards to the new system. Instead, it retained the History Cards in their original form – 3" by 5" filing cards – for reference.

In 1999, the Commission moved to a new location (445 12th Street SW), and also at that time created the successor database to BAPS, the Consolidated DataBase System (CDBS). The History Cards were transferred to microfiche by a contractor (only a few sets of microfiche exist), and the original paper cards were destroyed. The History Cards were stored on the microfiche as negative images, like those you see above. Generally, they have been left as negatives as those are often easier to read.

History Cards contain very brief entries and notes about station facilities, applications, and ownership. They are not, and never were intended to be, a comprehensive record of a station's operations. Nevertheless, they can be useful to help determine, for example, when a station first went on the air and its call letters at that time. History Card comments were generally typed onto the cards, and thus some records will show more faintly or with more smudging than others, depending on the quality of typewriter and ribbon then used. Occasional handwritten comments, corrections, and strikeouts may also be found. Cards may be incomplete, missing, or occasionally out of sequence.

The History Cards are presented here as they were copied to microfiche, to preserve this record for public use, and with the hope that they will be of value to future researchers of radio station history.

