



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

August 15, 2008

Southern TV Corporation  
c/o Peter Tannenwald, Esquire  
Irwin, Campbell & Tannenwald, P.C.  
1730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036-3120

Re: Low Power DTV Channel 41,  
Savannah, GA  
File No. BDCCDTL-20061027AFK  
Facility No.167565

Dear Counsel:

This responds to the Petition to Deny filed on behalf of Southern TV Corporation (STV), licensee of low power television station W41CR, channel 41, Hinesville-Richmond, Georgia, against the above-captioned application of Carolina Christian Broadcasting, Inc. (CCB) for a construction permit for a new digital companion channel to operate on channel 41 at Savannah, Georgia.<sup>1</sup> You state that the proposed digital companion station will operate co-channel with W41CR from a transmitter site only 71 km (44 miles) from the W41CR site. You maintain that the proposed digital interfering contour completely encompasses the protected signal contour of W41CR, and that the prospect of actual interference to the station is "extremely high." Accordingly, you contend that CCB's application cannot rationally be granted" and therefore must be dismissed or denied.

In an exhibit to its application, CCB states that the interference studies it conducted indicate that it complies with relevant interference requirements. With regard to W41CR, CCB specifically states that its interference study indicates potential unmasked interference to 2,096 persons, or 1.3 percent of the population within that station's protected signal contour, well within the permissible 2.0 percent or more of the population predicted to receive service from W41CR.

In the Petition to deny, you allege that CCB's interference showing relies on the use of the alternative Longley-Rice method to determine that predicted interference will encompass less than 2 percent of the population within W41CR's protected service area. However, you state that that showing should not be accepted because the Longley-Rice

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<sup>1</sup> The application is for a new digital companion channel for low power television station WHDS-LP, channel 32, Savannah, Georgia.

method is a “terrain dependent prediction method” that is impacted by terrain variation or obstacles that produce “terrain shielding.” In this case, however, you maintain that the terrain variation between the two transmitter sites is approximately 50 meters with no obstacle between them that would render inaccurate a contour plotted by the “traditional” interference prediction methodology (*i.e.*, based on Section 73.699 of the Commission’s Rules). Because the subject terrain is relatively flat and because there is a complete encompassment of W41CR’s protected signal contour, you maintain that the traditional method of computing signal contours cannot be ignored in favor of the tendered Longley-Rice based showing. When viewed in that context, you urge that CCB’s application should be denied.

In its opposition pleading, CCB states the methodologies used by STV in support of its interference claims do not conform to the Commission’s specified method to analyze predicted interference to an analog LPTV station by digital LPTV proposal. It states that the interference prediction methodology used to evaluate the digital LPTV proposal’s impact on the analog low power facility is detailed in OET Bulletin 69 which is based on Longley-Rice algorithms. Based on this methodology, CCB determined that less than 1.3 percent of the population within W41CR’s protected service area would experience interference. Thus, it maintains that the methodologies used by STV are inconsistent with the Commission’s Rules, and that CCB employed the standard interference analysis to determine that its proposal complies with the Commission’s Rules with respect to protecting W41CR.

**Discussion.** As an initial matter, Section 74.793(h) of the Commission’s Rules effectively provides that interference protection for authorized analog LPTV stations from a new digital LPTV proposal is based on the proposed digital facility not causing predicted interference to more than 2 percent of the population within the service area the analog LPTV station’s service area. The parties do not dispute this, they disagree over the methodology to calculate the interference caused to an authorized analog LPTV facility by a new digital LPTV proposal.

In this regard, Section 74.707 (a)(iii) establishes the protected (74 dBu) signal contour of the analog LPTV station operating on channel 41. However of more relevance to this case, Section 74.793(b) establishes that interference prediction analysis to determine the impact of the new digital proposal on the authorized analog LPTV is based on the criteria and methods specified in Section 73.623(c)(2-4) of the Rules, which, among other things, specifies the prediction of interference based on procedures set forth in *OET Bulletin No.69*, including the use of terrain-dependent Longley-Rice point-to-point propagation models.<sup>2</sup> CCB’s showing complies with our rules and you have provided no basis for deviating from those requirements.

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<sup>2</sup> See Section 73.623(c)(2). Although STV maintains that using such Longley-Rice methodologies indicates that interference “will be caused over more than half of W41CR’s protected service area,” it does not challenge CCB’s ultimate conclusion that its proposal will not cause interference to more than 2.0% of the population within the station’s service area.

Accordingly, your petition to deny STV's application for a construction permit for a new digital companion station to operate on Channel 41 at Savannah IS DENIED.

Sincerely,

Hossein Hashemzadeh  
Associate Chief, Video Division  
Media Bureau

cc: Gene A. Bechtel, Esquire

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