



Stamp and Return

June 4, 2001

Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 Twelfth Street SW
12th Street Lobby, TW-A325
Washington DC 20554

RECEIVED

JUN 12 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: KNBJ (FM) Bemidji, MN
Minnesota Public Radio
Facility ID #42966
BPED-2001208AAN

KCRB (FM) Bemidji, MN
Minnesota Public Radio
Facility ID #42970
BPED-2001208AAM

Dear Ms Salas;

We are in receipt of the enclosed letter dated May 29, 2001 concerning the two above-referenced minor modification applications. The purpose of this letter is to explain why Minnesota Public Radio ("MPR"), the licensee of these two stations, will not be able to obtain FCC antenna structure registration and file curative amendments within the next thirty (30) days. Under the circumstances, we hope that the Commission will not dismiss the applications.

These two minor modification applications propose to move KNBJ and KCRB to a new, as yet unbuilt, tower. On February 2, 2001, MPR filed a Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration with the FAA, proposing to construct a 1000 foot tower in Blackduck, MN. This is the tower that MPR proposes to move KNBJ and KCRB to.

By letter dated May 18, 2001, MPR received a letter from the FAA, indicating that the FAA is prepared to issue authority to construct a 500 foot tower, but "further study" is required to allow construction of a 1000 foot tower. The further study involves public circularization of the request. We are advised that the FAA does not have authority to grant permission to construct towers of more than 500 feet without this further study.

On May 24, 2001, MPR requested a Further Study. We have been advised by George Ross, the FAA specialist handling this file, that he has the request for Further Study and that the

Magalie Roman Salas
June 4, 2001
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letters to the public that are required to be sent out were drafted last week and should be mailed out by the end of this week. Once mailed, by law members of the public have thirty (30) days to comment on MPR's construction request. Upon closing of the thirty (30) day comment period, the FAA generally requires 60 to 90 additional days to compile the comments and make its final determination.

Copies of the May 18, 2001 letter from the FAA and of MPR's Request for Further Study are enclosed with this letter.

MPR has engaged an FAA consultant, Dr Gary Allen of Aviation Systems, Inc, who believes that MPR's proposed tower construction will not be a hazard in any way and that the FAA is not likely to receive any negative comments from the aviation community on MPR's construction proposal. Thus, MPR is confident of a Final Determination Letter from the FAA that authorizes construction.

Once a Determination Letter is received from the FAA, MPR will immediately register the tower with the FCC and thereafter will file a curative amendment to our original minor modification applications. However, for the reasons set forth in this letter, we do not expect to be in a position to do so for another 60 to 120 days.

Please feel free to contact me at 651-290-1259 or at mgramling@mpr.org if there are any questions about this.

Sincerely,


Mitzi T Gramling
Associate General Counsel

cc: Brian Butler, Audio Services Division
Amendment Processing Team, Mail Stop 1800-B3

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
WASHINGTON DC 20554

MASS MEDIA BUREAU
AUDIO SERVICES DIVISION
TECHNICAL PROCESSING GROUP
APPLICATION STATUS: (202) 418-2730
HOME PAGE: www.fcc.gov/mmb/asd/

MAY 29 2001

PROCESSING ENGINEER: Harding Chism
TELEPHONE: (202) 418-2700
FACSIMILE: (202) 418-1410
MAIL STOP: 1800B3
INTERNET ADDRESS: hchism@fcc.gov

Minnesota Public Radio
c/o Wiley, Rein & Fielding
1776 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006

In re: KNBJ(FM), Bemidji, MN
Minnesota Public Radio
Facility Id # 42966
BPED-20010208AAN

KCRB(FM), Bemidji, MN
Minnesota Public Radio
Facility Id # 42970
BPED-20010208AAM

Dear Sir:

The staff has under consideration the above-captioned minor change applications filed on behalf of Minnesota Public Radio for changes in the broadcast facilities of KNBJ(FM) and KCRB(FM). The minor change applications propose to construct a new tower structure.

Pursuant to 47 CFR § 17.4(a), any proposed antenna structure or proposed alteration of an existing antenna structure that requires notification to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires registration with the Commission prior to the proposed construction or alteration. Our records indicate that the proposed antenna structure has not been registered with the Commission. FCC antenna structure registration may be accomplished electronically via the Internet at <http://fcc.gov/wtb/antenna/>, or by sending a completed FCC Form 854, *Application for Antenna Structure Registration*, to:

Federal Communications Commission
Information Processing Branch
1270 Fairfield Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245

Please note that FAA approval is necessary in order to obtain FCC antenna structure registration. Following FCC registration of the antenna structure, a curative amendment to the application, which includes the antenna structure registration number, must be submitted to the Commission so that processing of your application may be completed. If the antenna structure cannot be registered within thirty days of the date of this letter, Minnesota Public Radio must notify the Audio Services Division (ASD), in writing, concerning the delay.

Federal Aviation Administration
Great Lakes Region, AGL-520
2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60018

AERONAUTICAL STUDY
No: 01-AGL-0793-OE

ISSUED DATE: 05/18/01

MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO
45 EAST SEVENTH STREET
ST. PAUL, MN 55101

**** PRESUMED HAZARD ****

The Federal Aviation Administration has conducted an aeronautical study under the provisions of 49 U.S.C., Section 44718 and, if applicable, Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 77 concerning:

Description: COMMUNICATION TOWER/88.5MHZ@100KW/91.3MHZ@80KW/
CHANNEL 203 259
Location: BLACKDUCK MN
Latitude: 47-41-28.83 NAD 83
Longitude: 094-31-06.88
Heights: 1000 feet above ground level (AGL)
2400 feet above mean sea level (AMSL)

The initial findings of this study indicate that the structure as described above would exceed obstruction standards and/or would have an adverse physical or electromagnetic interference effect upon navigable airspace or air navigation facilities. Therefore, pending resolution of the issues described below, it is hereby determined that the structure is presumed to be a hazard to air navigation.

If the structure were reduced in height so as not to exceed 500 feet above ground level (1900 feet above mean sea level), it would not exceed obstruction standards and a favorable determination could subsequently be issued.

To pursue the possibility of a favorable determination at the originally submitted height, further study would be necessary. Further study entails circularization to the public for comment. This process requires approximately 90 to 120 days from the date that further study is requested before any subsequent determination would be effective. The outcome cannot be predicted prior to public circularization.

Further study may be requested by the sponsor within 60 days of the date of this letter.

A copy of this determination will be forwarded to the Federal Communications Commission if the structure is subject to their licensing authority.

NOTE: PENDING RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUES DESCRIBED ABOVE, THE STRUCTURE IS PRESUMED TO BE A HAZARD TO AIR NAVIGATION. THIS DETERMINATION DOES NOT AUTHORIZE CONSTRUCTION OF THE STRUCTURE EVEN AT A REDUCED HEIGHT. ANY RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUES DESCRIBED ABOVE MUST BE COMMUNICATED TO THE FAA

SO THAT A FAVORABLE DETERMINATION CAN SUBSEQUENTLY BE ISSUED.

IF MORE THAN 60 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS LETTER HAS ELAPSED WITHOUT ATTEMPTED RESOLUTION, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR YOU TO REACTIVATE THE STUDY BY FILING A NEW FAA FORM 7460-1, NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OR ALTERATION.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact our office at 847-294-7456. On any future correspondence concerning this matter, please refer to Aeronautical Study Number 01-AGL-0793-OE.


George P. Ross
Specialist, Airspace Branch

(DPH)



May 24, 2001

Federal Aviation Administration
Great Lakes Region, AGL-520
2300 East Devon Street
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Aeronautical Study No: 01-AGL-0793-OE

To Whom It May Concern:

We are in receipt of the above study, a copy of which is enclosed with this letter. Minnesota Public Radio ("MPR") hereby requests further study, if possible, on an expedited basis.

There is some urgency to this request. Pending approval of the Federal Communications Commission, MPR plans to move the equipment of two currently licensed FM radio facilities to the proposed tower. The tower that the two licensed facilities currently are on is owned by a television broadcaster who needs the tower space currently occupied by MPR's facilities for its required conversion to digital television. MPR has been notified that it must vacate its current leased space by June, 2002. Any delays in approval of authority for construction of the requested tower may result in a loss of broadcast service by MPR to the community of Bemidji.

Please contact me directly at 651-290-1259 or mgramling@mpr.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mitzi T Gramling".

Mitzi T Gramling
Associate General Counsel

Cc: Doug Vernier
Ralph Hornberger
Kristi Booth
Will Haddeland