

Question 11

On December 17, 1999, the Post Company ("Post"), licensee of KIFI-TV, Idaho Falls, Idaho, filed a petition with the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC or Commission") to deny or revoke licenses from Oregon Trail Broadcasting Company ("Oregon Trail"), licensee of KPVI (TV), Pocatello, Idaho, and Two Ocean Broadcasting Company ("Two Ocean"), licensee of KJWY (TV), Jackson, Wyoming ("Petition"). Oregon Trail and Two Ocean are both wholly owned subsidiaries of Sunbelt Communications Company ("Sunbelt"), the one hundred percent shareholder of Bozeman Trail Communications Company. The Petition claimed that Sunbelt, Two Ocean and Oregon Trail have abused the Commission's ownership rules and its familial attribution policies. The Petition was filed in connection with the pending application of Meridian Communications of Idaho, Inc. (formerly Meridian Communications Company) for a new television station, channel 20, Idaho Falls, Idaho. These are the same claims also made in Post's Petition to Deny, dated June 7, 1995, filed against the application of Sunbelt Broadcasting Company (now Sunbelt Communications Company) to acquire the licenses of Stations KPVI (TV), KXTF (TV), and KJWY (TV). These claims, alleging family attribution of Sunbelt's interests held by James E. Rogers to his children, the owners of Meridian Communications of Idaho, Inc., were summarily rejected by the Chief of the Video Services Division in a letter dated September 29, 1995.

In a letter dated July 22, 2003, the Commission stated that Meridian "is fully qualified and that a grant of the application will serve the public interest, convenience and necessity." The grant of a construction permit to Meridian by the Commission shows that Sunbelt has neither abused nor violated the familial attribution policies. Any possible character questions were dismissed when the Commission granted a construction permit to Meridian.

In conclusion, Sunbelt has not violated the spirit of the Commission's rules and does not have any unresolved character issues.