

## Section VII, Question 13

### Main Studio Waiver Request for Polson, Montana

The University of Montana's ("UM") main studio for its current 5-station noncommercial educational FM radio network is located at the main studio of Station KUFM-FM in Missoula, Montana. For the subject Polson, Montana application, UM's Missoula main studio is 45 miles beyond the Rule's standard 25-mile radius for main studio location. Main studio waiver requests have previously been granted by the Commission for the main studios of UM's four other stations (KUKL, Kalispell; KUFN, Hamilton; KUHM-FM, Helena; and KAPC, Butte). As UM will now demonstrate, grant of an additional waiver of Section 73.1125 to allow a new Polson FM station to co-locate its facilities with Station KUFM-FM is fully warranted for good cause shown.

The Commission's standard for granting NCE main studio waiver requests is set forth in Main Studio and Program Original Rules, 3 FCC Rcd 5024, 5027 ¶30 (1988). There, the Commission stated:

"[W]e have recognized the benefits of centralized operations for noncommercial educational stations, given the limited funding available to these stations, and we have granted waivers to...radio networks to operate "satellite" stations that do not necessarily meet the requirements of a main studio. These stations, however, have not been permitted to ignore local service obligations, and waivers generally have been granted only upon a showing that the local community would be served."

In applying these standards to Polson, UM urges that its donor-funded noncommercial operations require economies of scale in order for its radio network to be financially viable. The proposed main studio co-location achieves such economies. Station KUFM-FM has a total staff of about 21 persons, who will be multi-tasked so that they can serve the Polson station, too, at the co-located facilities. Without co-location, UM estimates that it would require an additional three employees to properly run a separate Polson main studio. UM simply cannot afford to hire such additional staff or rent additional studio facilities outside of KUFM-FM's main studio.

UM is sensitive to its service obligations to Polson. Hence, it will maintain a free long distance telephone number which will be listed in the local telephone directory. That telephone will be staffed 24 hours a day by a live operator or voicemail system which will record all inquiries. Callers' messages will be answered within 24 hours or less, except on weekends.

Next, UM undertakes to conduct an annual ascertainment survey of the needs and interests of Polson residents by contacting Polson community leaders. UM will also subscribe to at least one area newspaper which includes Polson in its coverage. (To UM's knowledge there is no local daily newspaper in Polson.) In addition, the Polson station intends to include news or public affairs pertaining to Polson in its weekday newscasts.

Finally, the Polson station will maintain its official local public inspection file at its co-located main studio in Missoula, but will keep a copy of its public inspection file at the Polson Public Library.