

Waiver Request

W300BN

History

W300BN was originally licensed on 10/18/2007, and has been serving the cities of Portland, Falmouth and Yarmouth since that time.

Recently, the recent upgrade from class C3 to class C2 as well as a relocation of cochannel WFMX, Skowhegan, ME toward the translator has caused encroachment and potential displacement of the translator. The upgrade was licensed this year (1/11/2010), but some time was required to determine the cause of the interference being experienced by both parties.

Minor Changes Not Possible Without a Waiver

The initial approach was to seek a minor change. To this end, channels 297, 298, 299, 246 and 247 were carefully examined.

297, 298 and 299 would place the translator in the protected contour of WFNK 298C1.

246 would cause severe interference to WJZF-LP and first adjacent W245AA.

247 would cause severe interference to WJZF-LP and first adjacent WOKQ 248B.

Thus these "minor change" channels are all precluded from use.

Using a highly directional antenna in the original channel (300) to protect WFMX, but reducing the coverage significantly, was considered. Much of the listenership currently being served by the translator would be lost by using the highly directional antenna.

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THUS THIS APPLICATION IS A DISPLACEMENT FILING AND MUST BE TREATED AS A MINOR CHANGE APPLICATION DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE PROPOSED NEW CHANNEL IS MORE THAN THREE CHANNELS AWAY (UP OR DOWN) FROM ITS CURRENT CHANNEL OF OPERATIONS.

THE FCC HAS ALLOWED THIS IN THE PAST, AND THE APPLICANT ASKS FOR SIMILAR TREATMENT HERE. (FOR EXAMPLE, SEE RECENT CONSTRUCTION PERMIT BMPFT-20090519ABU IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, AND BLFT19990907AAM IN IRVING, TX.)

THE PUBLIC INTEREST WOULD BE SERVED BY A GRANT OF THIS WAIVER REQUEST AND TREATMENT OF THIS APPLICATION AS A MINOR CHANGE APPLICATION. THIS TRANSLATOR STATION HAS PROVIDED INSPIRATIONAL, EDUCATIONAL AND SPIRITUAL PROGRAMMING TO ITS COMMUNITY OF LICENSE FOR SEVERAL YEARS. THE LOSS OF THIS SERVICE WOULD CREATE AN AVOIDABLE VOID IN THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN THE PORTLAND, ME AREA.