



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

November 29, 2017

Salish Kootenai College
P.O. Box 70
58138 US Highway 93
Pablo, MT 59855

Re: KSKC-CD, Pablo/Ronan, MT
Fac. ID 168332, File No. BLDTL-20090720ADP

K20CP-D, Elmo, MT
Fac. ID 58665, File No. BLDTT-20091013ABT

K42HO-D, St. Ignatius, MT
Fac. ID 168333, File No. BLDTT-
20090720ADS

K48EG-D, Arlee, MT
Fac. ID 58661, File No. BLDTT-20100330ABK

Dear Licensee:

This is with respect to the Petition for Reconsideration (Petition) filed by Salish Kootenai College (Salish), licensee of Class A television station KSKC-CD, Pablo/Ronan, MT; digital TV translator stations K20CP-D, Elmo, MT; K42HO-D, St. Ignatius, MT; and K48EG-D, Arlee, MT, (Stations), requesting reconsideration of Salish's license cancellations submitted on September 22, 2017 and seeking reinstatement of the Station's licenses and a facility status conversion for Station KSKC-CD from a Class A to a TV Translator. For the reasons provided below, the Petition filed by Salish is granted.

Background. Salish is a Native American Tribal College associated with the Confederated Tribes of Flathead Nation, and provides noncommercial broadcast service to rural communities in the state of Montana.¹ On September 22, 2017, Salish requested cancellation of the licenses for stations KSKC-CD,² K20CP-D,³ K42HO-D,⁴ and K48EG-D,⁵ believing that it could no longer maintain and operate the Stations due to operational constraints and financial burdens.⁶ The Commission granted the cancellation requests made by Salish and cancelled the corresponding Stations' licenses and deleted their call signs on September 22, 2017. On October 20, 2017, Salish submitted the Petition requesting reconsideration of Salish's license cancellations and seeking reinstatement of the Station's licenses and a facility status

¹ Petition at 3.

² See FCC File No. 0000030075.

³ See FCC File No. 0000030081.

⁴ See FCC File No. 0000030077.

⁵ See FCC File No. 0000030079.

⁶ Petition at 2.

classification for station KSKC-CD to a TV Translator. In the Petition, Salish informed the Commission that following the requested license cancellations, there have been subsequent discussions with Montana State University (MSU) to acquire the cancelled facilities and the corresponding licenses in an effort to utilize the Stations as part of MSU's noncommercial educational TV network.⁷ In the Petition, Salish states that if the Stations' licenses are reinstated, MSU plans to obtain the licenses from Salish through assignment and with respect to Station KSKC-CD, operate and maintain the station as a TV translator rather than the previously licensed status as a Class A television station. Furthermore, MSU plans to install translator equipment as needed and to resume broadcast service through the filing of resumption of service notifications to the Commission.

Discussion. After reviewing the Petition, we have determined that Salish has successfully explained why reconsideration is appropriate and the Petition should be granted. Based on the facts and circumstances stated in the Petition, we find that the Salish's proposal to assign the Stations to MSU is viable and MSU has a valid acquisition plan to obtain the necessary agreements, reinstall the applicable equipment, and restore and resume operations with the existing facilities. In addition, we conclude that reinstatement of the Stations' licenses is appropriate and would be in furtherance of the public interest by restoring noncommercial public television service to rural and underserved communities in Montana, including the Flathead Indian Reservation.

In addition, the Commission cautions the Stations' Licensee to be mindful of the automatic cancellation provision in Section 312(g)⁸ that reads, in part:

If a broadcasting station fails to transmit broadcast signals for any consecutive 12-month period, then the station license granted for the operation of that broadcast station expires at the end of that period, notwithstanding any provision, term or condition of the license to the contrary....

Accordingly, the Petition for Reconsideration filed by Salish Kootenai College **IS GRANTED** and the call sign and facility service for station KSKC-CD, Pablo/Ronan, Montana, will revert back to K27MS-D and TV Translator as requested. Additionally, the license application file numbers—BLDTL-20090720ADP, BLDTT-20091013ABT, BLDTT-20090720ADS, and BLDTT-20100330ABK **ARE REINSTATED**. Finally, the call signs for KSKC-CD, Pablo/Ronan, MT; K20CP-D, Elmo, MT; K42HO-D, St. Ignatius, MT; and K48EG-D, Arlee, MT; **ARE REINSTATED** and the facility status of these stations set to **LICENSED AND SILENT** with an effective date of September 22, 2017.

Sincerely,


Hossein Hashemizadeh
Deputy Chief, Video Division
Media Bureau

cc: Barry Persh, Esq.

⁷ *Id.* at 2.

⁸ 47 U.S.C. § 312(g).