

Certification Regarding Compliance with Core Programming Processing Guidelines

The station aired an average of at least three hours per week of regularly scheduled educational/informational (“E/I”) programming during the license term. However, with regard to primary stream programming that aired during the third quarter of 2016, and primary and secondary stream programming that aired during the second quarter of 2018, multiple episodes of E/I programming were preempted and rescheduled during the only other available time slots. The majority of these were preempted by the network due to network sports coverage, including the Olympics and World Cup. One program was left in progress for network coverage of former First Lady Barbara Bush's funeral, and two others on the secondary stream were not aired due to technical difficulties (off-air). While the station provided notice of the rescheduled programs preempted by the network sports coverage in accordance with the FCC’s rules and policies, the new time slots were not the programs’ “second home.” As a result, these programs, could not count toward the station’s “Core Programming” hours, and the station cannot certify that it fully satisfied the Core Programming guidelines in these reporting periods. During several other quarters over the preceding license term the station aired more than the required three hours of weekly Core Programming per stream on its primary and multicast streams. Regarding the FCC’s policies governing preemptions, the station notes that the Commission has recognized the challenges that network-affiliated stations faced rescheduling preempted programming, and eliminated the “second home” policy in 2019.¹

The station is committed to serving the educational and informational needs of children. As noted in the station’s 2016 and 2018 Annual Equal Employment Opportunity Reports, station staff participated in multiple events at local schools, such as reading to students and presenting on the science of meteorology and careers within the media industry. Additionally, station staff participated in a summer reading and nutrition program for children living in rural and low-income communities in West Virginia.

¹ *In the Matter of Children’s Television Programming Rules*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 34 FCC Rcd 5822, 5854 (2019) (“we agree that for many this policy is unnecessarily burdensome and accordingly eliminate it as a requirement for counting rescheduled children’s programming toward compliance with the processing guidelines.”).