



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

December 13, 2021

Independent Communications, Inc.
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Radiant Life Ministries, Inc.
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1080 West Causeway Approach
Mandeville, LA 70471

Re: Application for Assignment of License
KTTW(TV), Sioux Falls, SD, ID No.
KTTM(TV), Huron, SD, ID No.
File No. 0000136045

Dear Counsel:

This letter is in reference to the unopposed, above-captioned application for assignment of the licenses of KTTW(TV), Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and KTTM(TV), Huron, South Dakota, from Independent Communications, Inc., to Radiant Life Ministries, Inc. (RLM). RLM has requested authority to operate KTTM as a satellite station, pursuant to Note 5 of section 73.3555 of the Commission's rules.¹ For the reasons set forth below, we grant the request for satellite authority and the application.

In the *Television Satellite Stations Report and Order*, the Commission set forth the standards for television stations seeking to obtain satellite status and established a rebuttable presumption that stations would qualify for satellite status if:

1. There is no City Grade overlap between the parent and the satellite;
2. The proposed satellite would provide service to an underserved area; and
3. No alternative operator is ready and able to construct or to purchase and operate the satellite as a full-service station.²

¹ 47 CFR § 73.3555, Note 5. RLM states in its application that to its “knowledge, after research and consultation with the assignor, the FCC has not previously issued a written determination or decision officially designating KTTM as a satellite station,” though it “notes that the FCC has historically treated KTTM as a satellite station of KTTW and allowed the ownership by one entity of both stations.” Multiple Ownership & Satellite Waiver Request, File No. 0000136045 (filed Feb. 11, 2021) (Waiver Request). Therefore, the streamlined procedures for reauthorizing satellite status when the license of a television station is assigned or transferred do not apply. See *Streamlined Reauthorization Procedures for Assigned or Transferred Television Satellite Stations*, Report and Order, 34 FCC Rcd 1539 (2019).

² *Television Satellite Stations Review of Policies and Rules*, Report and Order, 6 FCC Rcd 4212, 4213-15, paras. 12-20 (1991), subsequent hist. omitted (*Television Satellite Stations Report and Order*).

If an applicant does not qualify for the presumption, the Commission will evaluate the proposal on an *ad hoc* basis and grant the application if there are compelling circumstances that warrant approval.³ The Commission has acknowledged that “there is no digital counterpart to a station’s analog city grade contour” and, accordingly, stated that “consistent with case law developed after the digital transition, we [will] evaluate all future requests for new or continued satellite status on an *ad hoc* basis.”⁴

In support of its request, RLM asserts that KTTM serves an underserved area, as it is the only full-power television station licensed to Huron, South Dakota. RLM submits a statement from Stephan C. Sloan, a Director of Media Services Group, Inc. Mr. Sloan asserts that he is familiar with the Sioux Falls-Mitchell designated market area (DMA), the underlying demographic and economic data, and programming and competitive influences.⁵ Specifically, he notes that the DMA covers approximately 95,000 square miles and includes 59 counties in four states. Total population in the market is 722,000 people, but the population of those counties where the KTTM signal covers more than 50% of the county population is a mere 78,000 people.⁶ He also observes that all commercial operators in the DMA, representing major and minor network affiliations,⁷ employ satellite stations and that two such stations cover significantly more population than KTTM.⁸ Moreover, he notes that there is intense competition, with the top two commercial operators garnering nearly 90% of market revenues, according to BIA estimates.⁹ Mr. Sloan thus concludes, based on his brokerage and valuation experience, that “the marketing of KTTM as an independent stand-alone station would not be successful as prospective purchasers would recognize the technical deficiencies and lack of programming options available to the station.”¹⁰

We find that RLM has provided information sufficient to warrant satellite status for KTTM under our *ad hoc* analysis. Given the geographically dispersed nature and size of the Sioux Falls-Mitchell DMA, the existing extensive use of satellite stations by stations licensed in the DMA, intense competition for revenue, and the non-viability of KTTM for independent operations due to insufficient market coverage and lack of programming options, we find that the operation of KTTM as a satellite of KTTW would serve the public interest. Furthermore, having carefully reviewed the applications, we find that the applicants are fully qualified and conclude that the grant of the application would serve the public interest.

³ *Id.* at 4216, para. 26.

⁴ 2014 *Quadrennial Regulatory Review— Review of the Commission’s Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 et al.*, Report and Order, 31 FCC Rcd 9864, 9876, n.72 (2016), subsequent hist. omitted.

⁵ Waiver Request.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ All major networks, as well as PBS, CW, and MyNetworkTV, are carried on other stations in the Sioux Falls-Mitchell DMA.

⁸ Waiver Request.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED that the application for the assignment of the licenses of KTTW(TV), Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and KTTM(TV), Huron, South Dakota, from Independent Communications, Inc., to Radiant Life Ministries, Inc. (File No. 0000136045) **IS GRANTED**.

Sincerely,

/s/

Barbara A. Kreisman
Chief, Video Division
Media Bureau