

UNITED BROADCASTING COMPANY, INC.  
2021 License Renewal Application  
Substantial Compliance with FCC Rules

The licensee broadcasts over the facilities of KBJA a news-talk format that includes a very extensive amount of local programming relating to issues of significance in its city of license and surrounding secondary service area. Indeed, it may broadcast as much such programming as any other station in the market.

In terms of the fundamental policy aim of the Commission – service to the public -- KBJA broadcasts more issue-oriented programming in a single afternoon than the typical “music” station in the market broadcasts in an entire month. However, due to the financial exigencies characteristic of AM radio stations at present, KBJA is forced to operate with a skeleton staff. Further, with staffing changes over the course of the license term, United Broadcasting Company, Inc. encountered difficulty at times with the technical aspects of uploading the public file documents of the radio station onto the FCC’s online public file.

Fortunately, no listener has complained of an inability to access the issues/programs lists or other documents online. That is not surprising, because no one who listens to the station on a regular basis could doubt that it does far more than the minimum required by this FCC in regard to programming responsive to matters of public concern to residents of the service area.

In 2020-1, the Covid19 Pandemic limited access to the station’s studios and offices, and the uploading of the programs lists became especially problematic. However, all of the lists have now been uploaded to the online public file.

Even though a few materials were not uploaded to the online public file at the exact times specified in the FCC’s rules, all such materials are available there for review now by any member of the public who might wish to consider filing a petition to deny the instant application for renewal of the KBJA license. Given that the FCC is not equipped to consider an objection to the station’s license except during the petition to deny window, the absence of any particular issues/programs list from the online public file at any time prior to the filing of the license renewal application must be considered immaterial.

In sum, United Broadcasting Company, Inc. has substantially complied with the online public file rule.