

K03FO timeline, K07PG extended narrative

Based on our recent efforts and related progress as well as foreseeable resources, K03FO plans to order equipment for digital translation of analog K07PG by K03FO in August. The transmitter site is secured and construction of the subject channel 17 digital companion channel is not complicated.

The specified antenna and coax are on hand.

Until the construction of digital companion channel 17, K03FO will cease analog operation. Accordingly we propose that a 3 month grant/extension of the construction permit/license will be sufficient to transition this facility to digital operation.

At this time, digital conversion for K03FO source K07PG is dependent on the State of Alaska process of transitioning the Alaska Rural Communications System (ARCS). Two of three components of ARCS network operations and the ARCS network conversion to digital operation have been divested/transferred to Alaska Public Media (AKPM).

The third component is the actual inventory of transmitter equipment on hand, which under the auspices of Alaska Public Broadcasting, Inc. (APBI) (the former ARCS operator) included a channel 7 transmitter stack for K07PG.

Whether the successor to APBI will prioritize the conversion of K07PG is a question that won't be resolved until there is a successor. If procurement requests are at issue, the State of Alaska is not currently in a realistic position to contemplate them or their funding.

In terms of procurement and indirect chaos, the State of Alaska is presently in a budgetary quandary if not crisis, which will not be addressed until a legislative special session in August, possibly September.

However, we are not sitting on our hands in this respect, and are developing alternative funding and resources for the conversion of K07PG should the need arise. Construction of digital K07PG will not be complicated by weather as the satellite reception and transmission systems are already in place and operating (in analog at this time).

This is a heavy lift and will require time.

In contrast, K03FO does not expect support for the K03FO conversion from the successor operator of ARCS or the State of Alaska.

K03FO does not require/request a waiver for continued analog operation. K03FO requests the necessary waivers to maintain the license in silent status and the grant of the digital companion channel construction permit.