

Georgia Public Telecommunications Commission
FCC Form 340
New NCE FM Station

Established Local Applicant Documentation

The Georgia Public Telecommunications Commission (“GPTC”) d/b/a/ Georgia Public Broadcasting (“GPB”), is a state governmental entity in the State of Georgia. It was established by an act of the state legislature and is codified in Title 20 of the Georgia Code. GA. CODE ANN. § 20-13-1. As a state governmental entity, GPTC is considered a local entity for purposes of the FCC noncommercial point system determination “throughout the area within which their authority extends.” *Reexamination of the Comparative Standards for Noncommercial Educational Applicants*, Report and Order, 20 CR 301, 65 FR 36375, 15 FCC Rcd 7386, (April 21, 2000) at Paragraph 54.¹ Accordingly, as a state governmental entity, GPTC qualifies as a local entity applicant throughout the state of Georgia, including within the proposed service area. GPTC has been in existence since 1981 (its history as licensee of numerous broadcast stations since at least 1985 is a matter of record with the Commission), and is therefore an “established” local entity pursuant to Section 73.7003(b)(1) of the FCC’s Rules, which requires continuous local applicant qualification for no fewer than two years. *See also* attached, excerpt from GPB’s Wikipedia page, available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgia_Public_Broadcasting.

¹ “For example, the New York State government would be considered local throughout New York State, including New York City, but the New York City Board of Education would be local only in New York City” *Id.*

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Section 20-13-1. Establishment of Georgia Public Telecommunications Commission

Latest version.

(a) There is created a body corporate and politic to be known as the Georgia Public Telecommunications Commission which shall be deemed to be an instrumentality of the State of Georgia and a public corporation; and by that name, style, and title such body may contract and be contracted with, sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, and complain and defend in all courts of this state.

(b) The commission shall have perpetual existence. Any change in name or composition of the commission shall in no way affect the vested rights of any person under this chapter or impair the obligations of any contracts existing under this chapter.

(c) The commission shall be attached to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia for administrative purposes only, as provided for in Code Section 50-4-3. Code 1981, § 20-13-1, enacted by Ga. L. 1990, p. 594, § 1.

History

Official website	www.gpb.org (http://www.gpb.org/)
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Establishing the network

On May 23, 1960, the University of Georgia signed on WGTV, the second educational television station in Georgia (after Atlanta's WETV, now WPBA). From 1960 to 1964, in a separate initiative, the Georgia Board of Education launched four educational television stations across the state, aimed at providing in-school instruction. This evolved into the Georgia Educational Television Network, which aired Board of Education-produced classes for schools and evening programming from WGTV.^[1] WGTV moved its transmitter to Stone Mountain in 1969, adding Atlanta to its coverage area.^[2]

In November 1980, Governor George Busbee proposed the consolidation of WGTV with the state's network of transmitters into a new Georgia Public Telecommunications Council and also called for said body to negotiate to buy WETV from the Atlanta Board of Education.^[3] The Georgia state senate approved the bill, but it stalled in the House of Representatives due to the objections of Athens-area members and those involved with the UGA station.^{[4][5]} After the legislative session ended, Governor Busbee revived the proposal by executive order.^[6] On January 1, 1982, the new council took operational control of WGTV, and the combined service rebranded as Georgia Public Television; by June 1982, after the expiration of remaining program contracts, WGTV was fully incorporated into the network, and UGA's role was reduced to program supplier.^[7]

Growth into radio

In February 1985,^[8] the GPTC entered into public radio, launching stations serving Macon, Columbus and Valdosta in the first year. These formed the nuclei of Peach State Public Radio, which provided the first public radio services to much of Georgia; previously, only Atlanta and Savannah had public stations. During the 1980s and 1990s, stations that had been operated by other educational institutions and community groups became affiliated with the network. The service was renamed Georgia Public Radio in 2001.^[9]

In 1995, the GPTC began using "Georgia Public Broadcasting" as its corporate name. This would eventually become the umbrella title for all GPB operations in early 2004, when GPTV and Georgia Public Radio simultaneously rebranded under the Georgia Public Broadcasting name.