

REASONS FOR STA REQUEST FOR TV TRANSLATORS K09HI-D, K11HE-D, and K13HK-D

The TV Translator stations serving Garfield County, MT did not file License To Cover applications in a timely manner. As a result, the Commission cancelled their licenses. The TV Tax District has since filed the License To Cover applications and has made a pleading before the Commission to have their licenses reinstated. These actions are currently pending with the Commission.

The Directors of the TV District were not aware of the cancellation of their licenses and consequently, have continued to operate. This STA is requested to allow them to continue to operate and serve the small communities of Jordan, Sand Springs, and the surrounding areas. Garfield County is located on the prairies of Eastern Montana, an area subject to strong storms, especially in the winter. Garfield County is home to small communities whose main industry is cattle ranching. Weather information, along with EAS warnings, are essential to the life and livelihood of this community.

Many residents cannot afford pay TV. The median income in Garfield County has dropped by 13% over the past decade. Hispanic and Native Americans residents have median incomes of \$12,260 and \$3,500 respectively (city-data.com; 2019 data). These households rely on free over the air television for news, weather, and EAS warnings and these translators are their only source.