



Environmental Considerations

Radiofrequency Impact

Effective October 15, 1997, the FCC adopted its current guidelines and procedures for evaluating environmental effects of radiofrequency emissions. The current guidelines are generally based on recommendations by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) in NCRP Report No. 86 (1986), and by the American National Standards Institute and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc. (IEEE) in ANSI/IEEE C95.1-1992 (IEEE C95.1-1991). The FCC guidelines provide a maximum permissible exposure (MPE) level for occupational or “controlled” situations, as well as “uncontrolled” situations that apply in cases that affect the general public. The FCC’s Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) Commission issued a technical bulletin (OET Bulletin No. 65) entitled, “Evaluating Compliance with FCC Guidelines for Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields” (Edition 97-01, August 1997), to aid in the determination of whether FCC-regulated transmitting facilities, operations or devices comply with limits for human exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields as adopted by the Commission in 1996. The Bulletin contains updated and additional technical information for evaluating compliance with the current FCC policies and guidelines.

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The current FCC MPE level for “uncontrolled” environments is 0.2 milliwatt per centimeter squared ($200 \mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$) for FM facilities. The MPE level for FM facilities in a “controlled” environment is $1000 \mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$.

Co-located Facilities

Radio station WAVA(FM) proposes herein to use a side-mounted, four bay, full wavelength spaced, Jampro antenna for auxiliary use. The WAVA(FM) auxiliary facility will operate, when necessary, with an ERP of 50 kW at an antenna radiation centerline height of 67 meters above ground level (“RCAGL”). The shared tower is also used for the main transmission facilities of WABS(AM), Arlington, VA (780 kHz, 5 kW, ND-D); WBIG-FM (Channel 262B, 36 kW ERP, 124 meters RCAGL); and, WAVA(FM) (Channel 286B, 41 kW ERP, 114 meters RCAGL). In addition, the WMZQ-FM auxiliary antenna is also located on the shared tower (Channel 254B, 15.0 kW ERP, 96 meters RCAGL).

Tower And Property Fencing

Access to the tower is restricted by means of a protective fence and a locked gate. At its closest point, the tower fence is approximately 6 feet from the shared tower. In addition, a second, locked fence surrounds the adjacent AT&T property and the guy anchor point discussed below. RFR warning signs are posted at appropriate intervals.

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RFR Measurements

This office measured the electric and magnetic fields at the shared site most recently in June, 2002. The applicant proposes herein to license a former emergency antenna for permanent auxiliary use. During the experimental hours of June 20, 2002, measurements were performed with the proposed auxiliary facility at full power and the other colocated stations at full power (not including the WAVA(FM) main facility because, by definition, it will not be in operation during times the proposed WAVA(FM) auxiliary facility is in operation).

The RFR measurement survey found that the measured fields exceed FCC “uncontrolled” guideline values only in the vicinity of one guy wire anchor (which is within the AT&T property fence and not accessible to the general public) and in the vicinity of the WABS(AM) antenna matching unit within the tower fencing (not accessible to the general public). Elsewhere, RFR measurements indicated that the shared site was compliant with FCC guideline values.

Proposed Auxiliary Predicted Power Density

Based on the FCC’s FM model program, the proposed WAVA(FM) auxiliary facility is predicted to produce a worst-case predicted power density, at two meters above ground level, of $0.11 \mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ which is only 0.055% of the FCC guideline value for “uncontrolled” environments. Pursuant to Section 1.1307(b)(3) of the FCC Rules, because the proposed

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auxiliary facility would contribute less than 5% to the total power density at the multiple use site, the proposal's power density contribution is considered negligible.

Occupational Safety

The applicant will insure the protection of station personnel or tower contractors working in the vicinity of the WAVA(FM) auxiliary transmitting antenna. The applicant will reduce power and/or cease operation during times of service or maintenance of the transmission systems as necessary to avoid potentially harmful exposure to personnel. In addition, the applicant is party to an agreement among the site users to further ensure the safety of workers and the general public.

In light of the above, the proposed facility should be categorically excluded from RF environmental processing under Section 1.1307(b) of the Commission's Rules.

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