

REQUEST FOR STUDIO WAIVER - KMTJ

APPLICATION FOR WAIVER OF MAIN STUDIO LOCATION RULE
KMTJ (FM) COLUMBUS, MONTANA

THIS APPLICATION FOR STATION LICENSE OF KMTJ SEEKS A WAIVER OF THE MAIN STUDIO LOCATION RULE, SECTION 73.1125(B) OF THE COMMISSION'S RULES AND REGULATIONS.

THE APPLICANT, AND ITS PROPOSED OPERATION OF KMTJ, MEETS ALL OF THE CRITERIA WHICH THE FCC DEEMS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO GRANT SUCH A REQUEST.

THE APPLICANT, HI-LINE RADIO FELLOWSHIP, INC. ("HI-LINE"), WAS FORMED IN 1980 FOR THE PURPOSE OF OWNING AND OPERATING NON-COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL RADIO STATIONS TO SERVE RURAL AREAS OF MONTANA AND OTHER WESTERN STATES. HI-LINE IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, AUTHORIZED AND EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MONTANA, AND IS RECOGNIZED AS A TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

HI-LINE PROPOSES TO OPERATE KMTJ, COLUMBUS, MONTANA, FROM THE MAIN STUDIO OF CO-OWNED NON-COMMERCIAL/EDUCATIONAL FM STATION KXEI, HAVRE, MONTANA, FEEDING ITS PROGRAMMING FROM THE HAVRE STUDIO TO KMTJ VIA SATELLITE. THE APPLICANT CURRENTLY FEEDS A NUMBER OF CO-OWNED NON-COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL FM STATIONS IN MONTANA, AND TWO IN WYOMING, BY SATELLITE, UNDER EXISTING STUDIO WAIVERS PREVIOUSLY GRANTED BY THE FCC. SEE BLED-20081201ALX.

THE AREAS SERVED BY THE APPLICANT'S CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED STATIONS SHARE MANY SIMILARITIES WITH THE KMTJ COMMUNITY OF LICENSE, COLUMBUS, MONTANA. AS THEY ARE ALL PRIMARILY RURAL COMMUNITIES, THEY SHARE MANY COMMON CONCERNS, PROBLEMS, AND INTERESTS. THE APPLICANT IS CONFIDENT THAT THE PROGRAMMING IT CURRENTLY ORIGINATES FROM ITS MAIN STUDIO AT KXEI, HAVRE, MONTANA, WILL ADEQUATELY SERVE COLUMBUS, MONTANA AS WELL.

AS THE LICENSEE OF KMTJ, THE APPLICANT, ON A QUARTERLY BASIS, CONDUCTS ASCERTAINMENTS OF COMMUNITY NEEDS AND DETERMINES HOW KMTJ MAY BE USED TO MEET THESE NEEDS. DOCUMENTATION OF THE ASCERTAINMENT STUDIES, AND THE WAYS THE STATION PROPOSES TO MEET ANTICIPATED NEEDS, ARE MAINTAINED IN THE STATION'S PUBLIC INSPECTION FILE. THE APPLICANT WISHES TO NOTIFY THE COMMISSION THAT, IN THE EVENT OF A GRANT OF ITS REQUEST FOR A WAIVER OF THE MAIN STUDIO LOCATION RULE, IT SHALL CONTINUE TO CONDUCT ITS QUARTERLY ASCERTAINMENT STUDIES OF COMMUNITY NEEDS AND CONTINUE MEETING THOSE NEEDS SO AS TO ADEQUATELY SERVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST AS THE LICENSEE OF KMTJ.

IN ITS ONGOING EFFORT TO SERVE THE RESIDENTS WITHIN THE KMTJ COVERAGE AREA, THE APPLICANT WILL MAINTAIN A TOLL-FREE "WATS" TELEPHONE LINE ENABLING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE KMTJ LISTENING AREA TO CONTACT THE HAVRE, MONTANA, STUDIO BY TELEPHONE AT ANY TIME WITHOUT A TOLL CHARGE.

THE APPLICANT SHALL SUBSCRIBE TO THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, OR A SIMILAR NEWS SERVICE, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN INFORMATION WHICH IT WILL BROADCAST TO THE KMTJ AUDIENCE. THIS SHALL INCLUDE LOCAL AND STATE INFORMATION (SUCH AS NEWS, WEATHER, SPORTS INFORMATION, FARM AND ECONOMIC DATA, ETC.).

THE APPLICANT ALSO PLEDGES THAT IT SHALL MAKE AIRTIME AVAILABLE, FREE OF CHARGE, TO NON-PROFIT AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE KMTJ SERVICE AREA FOR THE BROADCAST OF PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS. THE APPLICANT SHALL ENCOURAGE SUCH ORGANIZATIONS TO SUBMIT INFORMATION ANY TIME BY WAY OF ITS TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE LINE, E-MAIL, BY FAX, OR BY REGULAR MAIL.

HAVRE, MONTANA, AND COLUMBUS, MONTANA, ARE BOTH SMALL, RURAL COMMUNITIES, LOCATED JUST 262 ROAD MILES APART. BOTH ARE PRIMARILY AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES WITH A LIMITED AMOUNT OF INDUSTRY.

DUE TO THE LIMITED POPULATION WITHIN THE KMTJ COVERAGE AREA, AND THUS THE LIMITED FINANCIAL SUPPORT ANTICIPATED FOR THE OPERATION OF KMTJ, THE APPLICANT FEELS THAT A GRANT OF THIS REQUEST FOR A WAIVER OF THE MAIN STUDIO LOCATION RULE IS ESSENTIAL TO THE FINANCIAL WELL-BEING OF KMTJ AND HI-LINE. FURTHER, IN LIGHT OF THE EFFORTS THE APPLICANT HAS PLEDGED TO MAKE ON AN ONGOING BASIS, THE APPLICANT IS CONFIDENT THAT IT'S OPERATION OF KMTJ AS PROPOSED IN THIS APPLICATION WILL SERVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND BE BENEFICIAL TO THE APPLICANT'S ORGANIZATION.