

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF SECTION 73.1125 OF THE COMMISSION'S RULES

Prairie Public Broadcasting, Inc. ("PPB") makes this showing under Section 73.1125 of the Commission's Rules in order to obtain approval to operate its new noncommercial educational DTV station at Bismarck, North Dakota as a satellite/repeater station without a main studio in the city of license. For the reasons which follow the applicant believes that the public interest would be served by this mode of operation.

PPB's new noncommercial educational DTV station will be operated as a satellite/repeater station for the educational TV programming originated by noncommercial educational Station KFME(TV), Fargo, North Dakota, which is licensed to the applicant.

PPB is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation providing the only public television service for the State of North Dakota and west central Minnesota through seven television transmitters (KFME-TV / Fargo, KGFE-TV / Grand Forks, KBME-TV / Bismarck, KSRE-TV / Minot, KDSE-TV / Dickinson, KWSE-TV / Williston, and KJRE-TV / Ellendale).

PPB is convinced that the DTV station in Bismarck could not offer the highest quality alternative educational programming if required to operate as a wholly separate entity. In fact the companion NTSC transmitter (KBME-TV) is presently operated as a satellite/repeater station. PPB believes that the station's programming in all respects, especially informational programming and public affairs, will be of much higher quality due to the station's retransmission of classical music, arts and information programming produced at KFME(TV)'s studio in Fargo.

The FCC has already recognized the public interest benefits of this mode of providing public service in numerous waivers granted to statewide and regional public broadcast networks. The Commission has stated, "[W]e have recognized the benefits of centralized operations for noncommercial educational stations, given the limited funding available to these stations, and we have granted waivers to state and regional public television and radio networks to operate "satellite" stations that do not necessarily meet the requirements of a main studio." *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, MM Dkt No. 86-406, 3 FCC Rcd 5024 (1988).

For the foregoing reasons, PPB believes that its proposal for a satellite DTV facility at Bismarck will best meet the needs of the citizens in the area for public DTV service. The applicant therefore respectfully requests the Commission to approve this mode of operation pursuant to Section 73.1125 of the Rules.

EXHIBIT III-A