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DISPATCH
MAR 2 1998 AUDIO SERVICES DIVISION REFER TO: 1800B3-ALM

Mr. Richard L. Kunkel
CEO/General Manager
Spokane Public Radio, Inc.
2319 North Monroe Street
Spokane, Washington 99205-4586

Re: New FM Service in Bonners Ferry, Idaho (BPED-950719MD)

Dear Mr. Kunkel:

The staff has under consideration the application of Spokane Public Radio, Inc. ("SPRI") for a construction permit for new noncommercial educational ("NCE") FM station in Bonners Ferry, Idaho (File No. BPED-950719MD). SPRI has requested a waiver of the Commission's main studio requirement, see 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125, in order to operate the Bonners Ferry station as a satellite of its NCE station KPBX(FM), Spokane, Washington.¹ For the reasons set forth below, we will waive 47 C.F.R § 73.1125 and grant SPRI's application for a construction permit.

Section 73.1125(a) requires each broadcast station to maintain a main studio within the station's principal community contour to ensure that the station will serve the needs and interests of the residents of its community of license. Amendment of Sections 73.1125 and 73.1130, 3 FCC Rcd 5024, 5027 (1988). However, under Section 73.1125(a)(4), the Commission will waive this requirement where "good cause" exists to do so and where the proposed studio location "would be consistent with the operation of the station in the public interest." Each waiver request by an NCE station seeking to operate as the satellite of another NCE station is considered on a case-by-case basis. The Commission has recognized the benefits of centralized operations for NCE stations, given their limited funding, and thus found "good cause" exists to waive the main studio location requirement where satellite operations are proposed. Id. A satellite station must, however, demonstrate that it will meet its local service obligation to satisfy the Section 73.1125 "public interest" standard. Id.

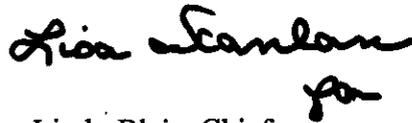
SPRI's request is based on the economies of scale which would be realized by grant of its waiver. We agree and conclude that there is "good cause" to waive 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125(a)(4) in these circumstances. SPRI proposes to operate the Bonners Ferry, Idaho station as a satellite of KPBX(FM), Spokane, Washington, approximately 140 miles from

¹A "satellite" station meets all of the Commission's technical rules, however, it originates no programming and instead rebroadcasts the parent station's programming. See Amendment of Multiple Ownership Rules, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 3 RR2d 1554, 1562 (1964).

Bonnors Ferry. Where there is a great distance between parent and satellite stations, as here, we are particularly concerned that the licensee take adequate measures to maintain its awareness of the satellite community's needs and interests. To that end, SPRI has pledged to: (1) conduct twice-yearly public meetings, open to all listeners, at which suggestions, comments and conversation about all facets of station programming and operation are solicited; (2) utilize members who live in the community to provide feedback; (3) subscribe to the Bonnors Ferry newspaper in order to stay current on issues and important community events; (4) send reporters to the community when warranted; (5) maintain a toll-free telephone line between Bonnors Ferry and the proposed station's main studio in Spokane, Washington; and (6) maintain the proposed station's Public Inspection File in Bonnors Ferry. In these circumstances, we are persuaded that SPRI will meet its local service obligations and thus, that grant of the requested waiver is consistent with the public interest.

Accordingly, the application of Spokane Public Radio, Inc. for a construction permit for a new educational FM radio station in Bonnors Ferry, Idaho (BPED-950719MD) and its request for waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125 ARE GRANTED. The authorization is enclosed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Blair", with a stylized flourish below it.

Linda Blair, Chief
Audio Services Division
Mass Media Bureau

enclosure