

Family Life Ministries, Inc.  
WCIO  
Fac. Id. 5534  
Oswego, NY

### **Main Studio Waiver Request**

Family Life Ministries, Inc. (“FLM”), the licensee of FM station WCIO, Oswego, New York, hereby requests a waiver pursuant to Section 73.1125(d)(2) of the Commission’s rules. This request is submitted concurrently with FLM’s application to convert WCIO from commercial to non-commercial educational status. The waiver is sought to permit FLM to locate the main studio for WCIO approximately 87 miles away, at the main studio of another FLM station, WCIK, Fac. Id. 20631, Avoca, New York. In making this waiver request, FLM is providing the Commission with the information necessary to support a finding of “good cause” such that the grant of a waiver in this circumstance will be, pursuant to Section 73.1125(b)(2), “...consistent with the operation of the station in the public interest.”

FLM currently operates twenty two (22) full power non-commercial educational radio stations throughout New York and Pennsylvania using direct listener support. FLM proposes to operate WCIO as a “satellite” of FLM’s station WCIK. WCIO’s main studio would be located at the WCIK studio, which is only 87 miles from the designated reference coordinates for the licensed community of Oswego, New York. The co-location of the WCIO studios with those of WCIK will generate valuable economies of scale and cost savings allowing FLM to maintain high quality non-commercial educational programming in the community of Oswego. The obligation to maintain separate staffing and studio locations for two noncommercial FM stations will place a serious financial burden on FLM and divert limited resources away from WCIO as well as FLM’s other stations.

FLM will have a local representative to act as a liaison between the Oswego community and FLM’s programming personnel. The local representative will be charged with assisting FLM’s programming personnel in determining the needs, problems and concerns of Oswego’s listeners. FLM will maintain a toll-free telephone number as required by Section 73.1125(e) of the Commission’s rules. Though the public inspection file for WCIO will be maintained at the main studio of the “parent” station WCIK, Avoca, New York, FLM commits to make reasonable accommodation to listeners wishing to examine the public inspection file’s contents.

The Commission traditionally considers main studio waiver requests by non-commercial educational stations on a case-by-case basis. See *Main Studio and Program Origination Rules*, 3 FCC Rcd 5024 (1988); *Review of the Commission Rules Regarding the Main Studio and Local Public Inspection Files of Broadcast Television and Radio Stations*, 13 FCC Rcd 15691, 15695 n.18 (1998). For non-commercial main studio waiver requests, the Commission has expressly found “good cause” to exist in numerous instances based solely on a showing that centralized operations will provide economic benefit to non-commercial stations, provided that local service obligations are met. See *Letter to Roy R. Russo, Esq.*, dated January 24, 1994; *Letter to Richard J. Bordoff*, dated January 2, 1992; *The President of the Board of Trustees of the Miami University*, 7 FCC Rcd 2902 (1992); *The Cedarville College*, 6 FCC Rcd 538 (1991).

Though this request seeks a waiver to locate the main studio for WCIO only a little less than 87 miles outside of the Oswego community, FLM notes that it is aware of several main studio waivers granted to non-commercial educational radio stations permitting the main studio to be located more than 1000 miles away from the licensed community.<sup>1</sup>

As set forth above, good cause exists for waiver of the main studio rule in this case. Further, allowing the combination of resources for these co-owned stations will allow FLM to provide better and more programming to serve the public of Oswego and the surrounding areas. This distance waiver is fully “consistent with the operation of the station in the public interest.”<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, FLM respectfully requests that the Commission find, pursuant to Section 73.1125(b)(2) of its rules that the public interest will be served by the consolidation of WCIO’s main studio with that of WCIK’s and to authorize FLM to locate WCIO’s main studio outside the station’s principal community contour, outside the contour of any other broadcast station licensed to Oswego, New York and more than 25 miles from the reference coordinates of the center of Oswego, New York.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>See FM radio stations WVKF, Bartlett, TN; KXLV, Amarillo, TX and KLRO, Hot Springs, AR (formerly KSBC).

<sup>2</sup>See *Report and Order, Review of the Commission’s Rules Regarding the Main Studio and Local Public Inspection Files of Broadcast Television and Radio Stations*, 13 FCC Rcd 15691 (1998); *recon, Granted in part*, 14 FCC Rcd 11113 (1999).