



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 26, 2015

Florida State University
c/o Richard Helmick, Esq.
Cohn and Marks, LLP
1920 N Street N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036-1622

Re: WFSG-TV, Panama City, Florida
Fac. ID No. 6093
File No. BLEDT - 20120327ALA

Dear Counsel:

This is in regard to the above-referenced unopposed application for a digital television broadcast station license for Florida State University ("FSU" or "applicant"), licensee of Station WFSG-TV, Panama City, Florida ("WFSG"). In connection with the application, the licensee seeks a waiver of Section 73.1125 of the Commission's rules (main studio requirements) to permit it to operate WFSG without a main studio in its community of license. For the reasons stated below, we grant the application and the requested waiver.

WFSG, a noncommercial educational station, has been a satellite of WFSU-TV, Tallahassee, Florida since it was first licensed by the Commission in 1990. In its waiver request to co-locate WFSG with the main studio of WFSU-TV in Tallahassee, the applicant argues that the proposed satellite operation of WFSG "is consistent with FCC policy to permit satellite operation of NCE stations as a network of stations" and that it will enable WFSG to conserve the financial resources of FSU so that it may provide programming that serves the public interest which is also responsive to the needs and interests of WFSG's community of license.

Additionally, in its waiver request FSU pledges that it will maintain a toll-free number to enable Panama City residents to contact the WFSG main studio (which will also serve as the proposed NCE station's main studio) in compliance with section 73.1125(d) of the Commission's rules. Further, consistent with section 73.3527(c)(2), the applicant states that it will maintain a public inspection file at the main studio as required by the Commission's rules.

Discussion. Section 73.1125 requires that each broadcast station operate a main studio either within the station's community of license, or at any location within the principal community contour of any station, whether AM, FM, or TV, licensed to that community, or within twenty-five miles from the reference coordinates of the center of the community of license.¹ Pursuant to Section 73.1125(c)(2), a licensee may

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125. Section 73.1125(a) provides that each AM, FM and TV broadcast station shall maintain a main studio at one of the following locations: (1) within the station's community of license; (2) at any location within the principal community contour of any AM, FM or TV broadcast station licensed to the station's community of license, or (3) within twenty-five miles from the reference coordinates of the center of its community of license as described in § 73.208(a)(1).

request a ruling permitting it to locate its main studio outside of those locations. Although each such request by a noncommercial educational station is considered on a case-by-case basis, the Commission has recognized the benefits of centralized operation for noncommercial educational stations, given their limited funding, and has found that “good cause” exists to waive the main studio location requirement where satellite station operations for such stations are proposed.² In order to obtain the waiver, an applicant must demonstrate that it will meet its local service obligations to satisfy the Section 73.1125 “public interest” standard.³

We conclude that the applicant has demonstrated that good cause exists to waive section 73.1125(a) of the Rules and to allow WFSG to operate from the main studio of WFSU-TV in Tallahassee. The Commission has repeatedly recognized the efficiencies of centralized operations for noncommercial educational stations, and such circumstances are present here.⁴ WFSG is a noncommercial educational station and satellite operations at the main studio of WFSU in Tallahassee, Florida would allow the licensee to conserve economic resources so that it may better serve its community of license. In addition, we find that local viewer concerns will be addressed by the additional measures that WFSG has pledged to implement – most notably the maintenance of a toll-free number to enable Panama City residents to contact WFSG, and committing to regularly interviewing and surveying local community leaders and residents of Panama City, including having a member of the FSU news department serve as a local public affairs representative to respond to the interests, concerns, and needs of the Panama City community. Accordingly, we find that grant of a main studio waiver and grant of the applicant’s digital television license application would serve the public interest, convenience and necessity.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED that the request for a waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125(a) filed by Florida State University to permit it to maintain the main studio for station WFSG-TV, Panama City, Florida at the main studio of WFSU-TV, Tallahassee, Florida, IS GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the application for a digital television broadcast station license for Florida State University, licensee of Station WFSG-TV, Panama City, Florida, File No. BLEDT - 20120327ALA, IS GRANTED.

Sincerely,


David Brown
Deputy Division Chief, Video Division
Media Bureau

² See *Amendments of Section 73.1125 and 73.1330*, MM Dkt. No. 86-406, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 3 FCC Rcd 5024, 5027, ¶ 30 (1988).

³ *Id.*

⁴ See, e.g., *KMAS-TV, Steamboat Springs, Colorado*, 22 FCC Rcd 2183 (2007).