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**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20554**

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1800B3-ALM

JAN 21 2000

Joseph E. Dunne III, Esquire
Post Office Box 9203
Durango, Colorado 81302-9203

In Re: NEW (Ed. FM), Putney, VT
Christian Ministries, Inc.
Facility ID No. 88180
File No. BPED-970828MF

Dear Mr. Dunne:

The staff has under consideration the captioned application of Christian Ministries, Inc. ("Ministries") for a construction permit for a new noncommercial educational ("NCE") FM station in Putney, Vermont. Ministries has requested a waiver of the Commission's main studio requirement, 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125, in order to operate the proposed Putney, Vermont station as a satellite of its NCE station WGLY-FM, Bolton, Vermont.¹ For the reasons set forth below, we will waive 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125 and grant Ministries' application.

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.*

Ministries' 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. Ministries proposes to operate the Putney, Vermont station as a satellite of commonly owned station, WGLY-FM, Bolton, Vermont, approximately


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).

100 miles from Putney. 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, Ministries has pledged to: (1) on an ongoing basis, ascertain the needs and interests of the Putney area by principals of Ministries; (2) air public affairs and educational programming responsive to the ascertainment efforts; (3) broadcast a community bulletin board show which concentrates on providing weather, news and announcements of school closings during inclement weather; (4) attend local community meetings and consult with local business, civic and religious leaders; (5) create a Media Board (under the aegis of the Ministries Board of Directors and comprised of representatives of each community served by Ministries, including Putney) to evaluate and critique the educational and public affairs programming by the stations and to decide how to improve the stations' program service; (6) hold an annual meeting of the Media Board in Putney; (7) utilize volunteer newsgathers to report Putney news; (8) add at least one new member to its Board of Directors from the Putney area; and (9) maintain a toll-free telephone number between Putney and the WGLY-FM studio. We remind Ministries, however, of the requirement that it maintain a public file for the Putney station at the main studio of the "parent" station WGLY-FM. *See Review of the Commission's Rules Regarding the Main Studio and Local Public Inspection Files of Broadcast Television and Radio Stations*, 64 Fed. Reg. 35941 (July 2, 1999). In these circumstances, we are persuaded that Ministries will meet its local service obligations and thus, that grant of the requested waiver is consistent with the public interest.

Accordingly, the application of Christian Ministries, Inc. for a construction permit for a new noncommercial, educational FM radio station in Putney, Vermont (File No. BPED-970828MF), and its request for waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125 ARE GRANTED.

Sincerely,



Linda Blair, Chief 
Audio Services Division
Mass Media Bureau