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

FEB 09 1996

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
1800B3-ALM

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1801 K Street, N.W., Suite 400K  
Washington, D. C. 20006-1301

In re: NEW, Sterling, Illinois  
Northern Illinois  
University  
File No. BPED-940317MK

Dear Counsel:

This is in reference to the above-captioned application filed by Northern Illinois University ("University") for a new noncommercial, educational FM station in Sterling, Illinois. University requests a waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125(a)(4) to operate the station as a proposed satellite station of commonly owned station, WNIU, DeKalb, Illinois.

In order to insure that local issues of concern to Sterling are met, University has agreed to undertake the following:

1. Regularly ascertain the problems, needs and interests of the Sterling community by contacting local officials and community leaders.
2. Invite representatives of the Sterling community to participate on the WNIU/WNIJ Community Advisory Board.
3. Based on the input received from (1) and (2), above, University will broadcast programming that will focus on the needs and interests of the listeners in the Sterling community.
4. Input will also be entertained from the general public through regular calls and letters, and from messages left on the WNIU/WNIJ Listener Comment Line.
5. Establish a toll free telephone number between Sterling and the proposed station's main studio location in DeKalb, Illinois.

The Commission has stated that "we 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. These stations, however, have not been permitted to ignore local service obligations, and waivers generally have been granted only upon a showing that the local community would be served." Memorandum Opinion and Order in MM Docket No. 86-406, 3 FCC Rcd 5024 (1988). Thus, local needs should be met by this applicant.

We have determined that University has established that its centrally programmed simultaneous schedule will serve the problems, needs and interests of Sterling Illinois. Accordingly, 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125(a)(4) IS HEREBY WAIVED to the extent indicated herein and the application filed by Northern Illinois University for a new educational FM station in Sterling, Illinois, being in all respects acceptable, IS HEREBY GRANTED. The construction permit authorization will be forwarded under separate cover.

Sincerely,



Dennis Williams *for*  
Assistant Chief  
Audio Services Division  
Mass Media Bureau