

Main Studio Waiver Request

Contingent upon the grant of the assignment application and consummation of the proposed transaction, the proposed assignee, Christian Media, Inc. (“CMI”), hereby requests a waiver of Section 73.1125 of the Commission’s rules (“the Main Studio Rule”). This request is submitted concurrently with the instant application to assign the license of WNGF, Swanton, VT to CMI, as CMI intends to operate the station as a satellite of another station under a main studio waiver in the same way it currently operates its five other full power noncommercial FM broadcast stations.¹

The instant waiver is sought to permit CMI to locate WNGF’s main studio approximately 40 miles away in Essex Junction, Vermont at the main studio for CMI’s station WGLY-FM, Bolton, VT, (Fac. Id. 11084). In making this waiver request, CMI is providing the Commission with information appropriate for a finding of “good cause” and that the grant of the waiver in this circumstance will be, pursuant to Section 73.1125(b)(2), “...consistent with the operation of the station in the public interest.”

The Commission traditionally considers waiver requests by NCE stations on a case-by-case basis.² For non-commercial 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 the local service obligations are met.³ It is not unusual for NCE radio stations which have been granted main studio waivers to have main studios located more than 1,000 miles away.⁴

The proposed studio location is only 40 miles away from the designated reference coordinates for the WNGF-licensed community of Swanton, VT. The co-location of the main studios will generate valuable economies of scale and cost savings allowing CMI to maintain high quality non-commercial educational programming in Swanton. The cost of maintaining a staff and studio location separate from WGLY-FM would make the acquisition of WNGF by CMI impossible, as it would divert limited resources away from CMI’s network of noncommercial stations.

CMI will have frequent contact and work closely with an established network of individuals in the Swanton, VT community who share CMI’s values. This ongoing and open channel of communication will act as a bridge between the Swanton community and CMI’s programming personnel. These individuals will be charged with assisting CMI personnel in determining the needs, problems and concerns of Swanton listeners. CMI will maintain a toll-

¹ WCMK, Putney VT (Fac Id 88180); WGLV, Woodstock, VT (Fac Id 82833); WCKJ, St. Johnsbury, VT (Fac Id 76054), WCMD-FM, Barre, VT (Fac Id 11085), and WFTF, Rutland, VT (Fac. Id. 11095).

² See *Main Studio and Program Origination Rules*, 3 FCC Rcd 5024 (1988); *Review of the Commission’s Rules Regarding Main Studio and Local Public Inspection Files of Broadcast Television and Radio Stations*, 13 FCC Rcd 15691, 15694 n.18 (1998).

³ 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 Miami University*, 7 FCC Rcd 2902 (1992); *The Cedarville College*, 6 FCC Rcd 538 (1991).

⁴ See FM radio stations WKVF, Byhalia, MS (formerly WYLT); KXLV, Amarillo, Texas (formerly KLMN); and KLRO, Hot Springs, AR (formerly KSBC).

free telephone number as required by Section 73.1125(e) of the Commission's rules. Although a public interest inspection file for WNGF will be maintained at WGLY-FM's main studio location in Essex Junction, VT, CMI commits to make reasonable accommodation to listeners wishing to examine the public inspection file.

As set forth above, good cause exists for the waiver of the main studio rule here. Further, allowing the focusing of CMI's resources on one main studio will allow CMI to provide more and enhanced programming to better serve the public interest. This distance waiver is fully "consistent with the operation of the station in the public interest."⁵

CMI 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 operation of WNGF as a satellite station of CMI's WGLY-FM, with its main studio in Essex Junction, VT, and thereby authorize CMI to locate WNGF's main studio outside the station's principal community contour, outside the contour of any other broadcast station licensed to Swanton, VT and more than 25 miles from the reference coordinates of the center of Swanton, VT.

⁵ See *Report and Order, Review of the Commission's Rules Regarding 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).