

EXHIBIT 17-A

Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Field & Section 106 Compliance (Environmental)

A study has been made to determine whether this proposal is in compliance with 47 C.F.R. 1.1307 of the Commission's rules and with OET Bulletin #65, dated August 1997, regarding human exposure to radio frequency radiation in the vicinity of broadcast towers. Virden Broadcasting Corporation, licensee of FM translator W226CH, Facility ID No. 140186, McComb, Illinois seeks to modify W226CH by relocating to a new transmit location at Carthage, Illinois. The transmitting site is a recently constructed grain elevator 36 meters in overall height and is not registered with an Antenna Structure Registration ("ASR") number. The grain elevator is located at 40° 25' 09.4" N ~ 91° 06' 21.1" W (NAD 27). The proposed antenna is a Kathrein-Scala CA2-FM one bay vertically polarized antenna oriented at 140 degrees true azimuth. The center of radiation is 36 meters AGL and 240 meters above mean sea level. W226CH will operate with 175 watts ERP at 45 meters HAAT. The use of existing transmitting locations has been characterized as being environmentally preferable by the Commission, according to Note 1 of § 1.1306 of the FCC Rules. Because W226CH proposes to operate from an existing tower, it is believed to be exempt from a Section 106 review by the SHPO/THPO.

This antenna is not included in the Commission's FM Model for Windows program. Therefore the FCC FM Model Program shows a worst case scenario by using the Type One Phelps-Dodge "Ring-Stub" or dipole (EPA) antenna. Using this antenna, the proposed operation was evaluated for human exposure to RF energy using the procedures outlined in the Commission's OET Bulletin Number 65. The maximum calculated signal density near the tower at two meters above ground level attributable to the proposed facility is 4.820 $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ at 8 meters, which is 2.41 percent of the general population/uncontrolled maximum permitted exposure limit.

The applicant will see that signs are posted in the vicinity of the site, warning of potential radio frequency hazards at the site. The applicant will cooperate with other users of the site to reduce power of the facility, or discontinue operation, as necessary to limit human exposure to levels less than specified by the Federal Communications Commission should anyone be required to climb the grain elevator for maintenance or inspection.