

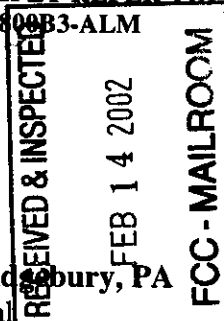
Mike W.  
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**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20554**

FEB 13 2002

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1500B3-ALM



Eric S. Kravetz, Esquire  
3511 Porter Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20016

In re: WREQ(FM), Ridgebury, PA  
CSN International  
Facility ID No. 40383  
File No. BMLED-20011213ABG

Dear Mr. Kravetz:

This is in reference to (1) the captioned application filed by CSN International ("CSN") to modify the license of WREQ(FM), Ridgebury, Pennsylvania to specify operation as a noncommercial educational radio station; and (2) CSN's request for a waiver<sup>1</sup> of 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125, the Commission's main studio rule, to operate WREQ(FM) as satellite station of commonly owned NCE station, WBJA(FM), Albion, New York.<sup>2</sup> For the reasons set forth below, we shall grant Covenant's application and its request for a waiver.

**CSN's Application:** The instant application seeks to modify the license of WREQ(FM) to specify that the station will be operated as a noncommercial educational radio station. Section 73.503 of the Commission's rules states a noncommercial educational radio station "will be licensed only to a nonprofit educational organization and upon showing that the station will be used for the advancement of an educational program." In support of its request to modify the WREQ(FM) license, CSN has appended material which demonstrates that it is a nonprofit educational organization and is, therefore, fully qualified to be the licensee of a non-profit educational radio station.

**Main Studio Request:** Pursuant to section 73.1125(a), a main studio must be located either (1) within a station's principal community contour, (2) within the contour of any other broadcast station licensed to its community, or (3) within 25 miles of the center of its community. *See Report and Order, Review of the Commission's Rules regarding the main studio and local public inspection files of broadcast television and radio stations,*

<sup>1</sup> An amendment to this waiver request was filed on February 7, 2002.

<sup>2</sup> A "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).*

13 FCC Rcd 15,691 (1998); *recon. granted in part*, 14 FCC Rcd 11113 (1999) (“*Reconsideration Order*”). However, under Section 73.1125(b)(2), the Commission will waive these requirements 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.*


CSN’s request is based on the economies of scale that 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) in these circumstances.

CSN proposes to operate WREQ(FM), Ridgebury, Pennsylvania as a satellite station of WBJA(FM), Albion, New York, approximately 160 miles from Ridgebury. Where there is a great distance between parent and satellite stations, as here, we are particularly concerned that the licensee takes adequate measures to maintain its awareness of the satellite community’s needs and interests. To that end, CSN has pledged to: (1) appoint a local public affairs representative in Ridgebury, who will serve as a liaison between the residents of Ridgebury and CSN station management, and who will keep WBJA(FM)’s station management abreast of local issues of interest and concern to the residents of Ridgebury; (2) periodically air announcements inviting residents of Ridgebury to contact the local representative to discuss the community’s needs and responsive station programming; (3) maintain a duplicate station public inspection file in Ridgebury; (4) include Ridgebury news and public service announcements in the WBJA(FM) programming as well as programs addressing the issues ascertained in Ridgebury; and (5) maintain a toll-free telephone number from Ridgebury to the WBJA(FM) main studio.

In these circumstances, we are persuaded that CSN will meet its local service obligations and thus, that grant of the requested waiver is consistent with the public interest. We remind CSN, however, of the requirement that it maintain a public file for WREQ(FM) at the main studio of the “parent” station, WBJA(FM), Albion, New York. It must also make reasonable accommodation for listeners wishing to examine the file’s contents. *See Reconsideration Order*, 14 FCC Rcd 11113, 11129 at ¶45. We further remind CSN that, notwithstanding the grant of the waiver requested here, the public file for WREQ(FM) must contain the quarterly issues and programs list for Ridgebury, Pennsylvania required by 47 C.F.R. § 73.3527(e)(8).

Accordingly, having determined that application filed by CSN International fully demonstrates that it is a nonprofit educational organization, the application (BMLED-20011213ABG) and the request for a waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125 ARE HEREBY GRANTED.

Sincerely,

  
for Peter H. Doyle, Chief  
Audio Services Division  
Mass Media Bureau