

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 97-23438 Filed 9-3-97; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 97-190; RM-9139]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Ipswich, SD

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission requests comments on a petition filed by Mountain Tower Broadcasting proposing the allotment of Channel 300A at Ipswich, South Dakota, as the community's first local aural transmission service. Channel 300A can be allotted to Ipswich in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements at city reference coordinates. The coordinates for Channel 300A at Ipswich are North Latitude 45-26-42 and West Longitude 99-01-48.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before October 20, 1997, and reply comments on or before November 4, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the petitioner, his counsel, or consultant, as follows: Victor A. Michael, Jr., President, Mountain Tower Broadcasting, c/o Magic City Media, 1912 Capitol Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001 (Petitioner).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sharon P. McDonald, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No. 97-190, adopted August 20, 1997, and released August 29, 1997. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, NW., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 1231 20th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036.

Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that from the time a Notice of Proposed Rule Making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments. See 47 CFR 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible *ex parte* contacts.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, see 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio broadcasting.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 97-23441 Filed 9-3-97; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 97-191; RM-9140]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Murdo, SD

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission requests comments on a petition filed by Windy Valley Broadcasting proposing the allotment of Channel 285A at Murdo, South Dakota, as the community's first local aural transmission service. Channel 285A can be allotted to Murdo in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements at city reference coordinates. The coordinates for Channel 285A at Murdo are North Latitude 43-53-24 and West Longitude 100-43-06.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before October 20, 1997, and reply comments on or before November 4, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the petitioner, his counsel, or consultant, as follows: Victor A. Michael, Jr., President, Windy Valley Broadcasting, c/o Magic City Media, 1912 Capitol Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001 (Petitioner).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sharon P. McDonald, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No. 97-191, adopted August 20, 1997, and released August 29, 1997. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, NW., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 1231 20th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036.

Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that from the time a Notice of Proposed Rule Making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments. See 47 CFR 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible *ex parte* contacts.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, see 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio broadcasting.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 97-23440 Filed 9-3-97; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 97-188, RM-9137]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Macon, MS

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission requests comments on a petition filed by Team Broadcasting Company, Inc., requesting the allotment of Channel 244A to Macon, Mississippi, as the community's local aural transmission service. Channel 244A can be allotted to Macon in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation

requirements with a site restriction of 4.6 kilometers (2.9 miles) west in order to avoid a short-spacing conflict with the licensed operation of Station WMJJ-FM, Channel 243C, Birmingham, Alabama. The coordinates for Channel 244A at Macon are 33-07-25 NL and 88-36-34 WL.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before October 20, 1997, and reply comments on or before November 4, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the petitioner, or its counsel or consultant, as follows: Ruben C. Hughes, President, Team Broadcasting Company, Inc., 561 Golden Avenue, Mobile, Alabama 36617 (Petitioner).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pam Blumenthal, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No. 97-188, adopted August 20, 1997, and released August 29, 1997. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC's Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, NW, Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, ITS, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 2100 M Street, NW, Suite 140, Washington, DC 20037.

Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that from the time a Notice of Proposed Rule Making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments. See 47 CFR 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible *ex parte* contacts.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, see 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio broadcasting.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 97-23439 Filed 9-3-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 12-Month Finding for a Petition to List the Alexander Archipelago Wolf as Threatened and to Designate Critical Habitat

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of 12-month petition finding.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces a 12-month finding for a petition to list the Alexander Archipelago wolf (*Canis lupus ligoni*) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. After review of all available scientific and commercial information, the Service finds that listing the Alexander Archipelago wolf as threatened is not warranted.

DATES: The finding announced in this document was made on August 28, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Data, information, comments, or questions concerning this petition should be sent to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Field Office, 3000 Vintage Blvd., Suite 201, Juneau, Alaska 99801-7100. The petition finding, supporting data, and comments are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Lindell, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address, or by calling 907/586-7240.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires that, for any petition to revise the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants that contains substantial scientific and commercial information, the Service make a finding on whether the petitioned action is (a) not warranted, (b) warranted, or (c) warranted but precluded from immediate proposal by other pending proposals of higher priority.

On December 17, 1993, the Service received a petition to list the Alexander Archipelago wolf as threatened under the Act from the Biodiversity Legal Foundation, Eric Holle, and Martin Berghoffen. On May 20, 1994, the Service announced a 90-day finding (59

FR 26476) that the petition presented substantial information indicating that the requested action may be warranted and opened a public comment period until October 1, 1994 (59 FR 26476 and 59 FR 44122). The Service issued its 12-month finding that listing the Alexander Archipelago wolf was not warranted on February 23, 1995 (60 FR 10056).

On February 7, 1996, the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity, Biodiversity Legal Foundation, Save the West, Save America's Forests, Native Forest Network, Native Forest Council, Eric Holle, Martin Berghoffen, and Don Muller filed suit in the United States Court for the District of Columbia challenging the Service's not warranted finding. On October 9, 1996, the United States District Court remanded the 12-month finding to the Secretary of the Interior, instructing him to reconsider the determination "on the basis of the current forest plan, and status of the wolf and its habitat, as they stand today" (96 CV 00227 DDC).

On December 5, 1996, a public comment period was opened by the Service (61 FR 64497). It was extended until April 4, 1997, through three subsequent notices (61 FR 69065; 62 FR 6930; and 62 FR 14662). Prior to a final determination, however, the Forest Service issued the Tongass Land Management Plan Revision, which superseded the 1979 version of the plan. In keeping with the United States District Court's order that a finding be based upon the "current forest plan," the District Court granted an extension until August 31, 1997, so that the petitioners, the public, and the Service could reconsider the status of the Alexander Archipelago wolf under the revised Tongass Land Management Plan. Therefore, the Service reopened the public comment period from June 12, 1997, to July 28, 1997 (62 FR 32070).

The Service has reevaluated the petition and the literature cited in the petition, reviewed other available literature and information, and consulted with biologists and researchers familiar with gray wolves in general, and the Alexander Archipelago wolf in particular. The 1997 revised Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan formed the basis for evaluating the status of the wolf on the Tongass National Forest. On the basis of the best scientific and commercial information available, the Service finds that listing the Alexander Archipelago wolf as threatened is not warranted.

The taxonomic status of wolves in southeast Alaska, commonly referred to as Alexander Archipelago wolves, is uncertain. Nevertheless, the Service believes that there is persuasive support