

PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DA 23-984
October 17, 2023

Media Bureau Announces Revised Dates for LPFM New Station Application Filing Window

Window Open from December 6, 2023 to December 13, 2023

Existing LPFM and FM Translator Minor Modification Filing Freeze Extended to December 13, 2023

On July 31, 2023, the Media Bureau (Bureau) announced a filing window for applications for low power FM (LPFM) new station construction permits.¹ The filing window is scheduled to open on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, and close on November 8, 2023. In conjunction with the filing window, the Bureau implemented a filing freeze on LPFM and FM translator station minor modification applications from September 1, 2023, through the close of the LPFM filing window.

On October 12, 2023, a group of low power FM advocates requested a delay in the dates for the LPFM filing window in order to facilitate greater participation and accommodate other regulatory deadlines.² Although it is the Commission's general policy that extensions of time shall not be routinely granted, we find that it would serve the public interest to delay the LPFM filing window by several weeks to afford interested parties sufficient time to prepare applications for new construction permits for this important service.

Based on the forgoing, the Bureau grants the request to delay the LPFM filing window. The window will now open at 12:01 am EST on December 6, 2023, and close at 6:00 pm EST on December 13, 2023. Applications must be filed between December 6, 2023, and December 13, 2023. The filing deadline will be strictly enforced. Applications submitted before December 6, 2023, or after the 6:00 pm EST December 13, 2023, application deadline will be dismissed by public notice without further consideration.

¹ *Media Bureau Announces Filing Procedures and Requirements for November 1 – November 8, 2023, Low Power FM Filing Window*, Public Notice, DA 23-642 (MB July 31, 2023) (July Public Notice).

² *See Letter from Alan Korn to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC* (Oct. 12, 2023). The request was submitted on behalf of: Alliance for Community Media; American Association of Independent Music (A2IM); Association of Affiliates (AOA); Austin Airwaves; Common Frequency, Inc.; Community Media Assistance Project; Future of Music Coalition; Indigenous Idaho Alliance, Boise, ID; National Federation of Community Broadcasters; Media Alliance; Native Public Media; Pacifica Foundation; Prometheus Radio Project; REC Networks; Sharon Scott; United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry.

In addition, the existing freeze on LPFM and FM translator minor modification applications is extended until the close of the window on December 13, 2023.³

The Bureau also notes the “snap shot” date for establishing points and comparing applications will match the revised LPFM window filing deadline of December 13, 2023. All of the remaining instructions and procedures included in the July Public Notice remain applicable to the LPFM filing window.

For additional information on the filing window, contact James Bradshaw, James.Bradshaw@fcc.gov; Alexander Sanjenis, Alexander.Sanjenis@fcc.gov; Lisa Scanlan, Lisa.Scanlan@fcc.gov; or Amy Van de Kerckhove, Amy.Vandekerckhove@fcc.gov; of the Media Bureau, Audio Division, (202) 418-2700. Direct press inquiries to Janice Wise, Janice.Wise@fcc.gov, (202) 418-8165.

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³ The Bureau notes that due to the burden the filing freeze places on existing licensees seeking needed license modifications, any additional delay in the LPFM filing window will first require a lifting of the minor modification application filing freeze.