



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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MEDIA BUREAU ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF RECALCULATED PRE-SUNRISE AND POST-SUNSET AUTHORIZATIONS FOR AM RADIO STATIONS

Section 73.99(a) through (d) of the Commission's rules permits certain qualifying AM broadcast stations to operate at increased power during the two hours immediately preceding local sunrise (pre-sunrise authorization or PSRA) and the two hours immediately following local sunset (post-sunset authorization or PSSA).¹ Prior to March 11, 2007, the Media Bureau (Bureau), Audio Division calculated the authorized pre-sunrise and post-sunset operating powers for all eligible AM stations, pursuant to section 73.99(e) and (j) of the rules.² By public notice dated March 1, 2007, the Bureau withdrew all PSRAs and PSSAs issued before February 1, 2007, in order to recalculate the permissible operating powers for such authorizations following enactment of the US Energy Policy Act of 2005,³ which lengthened the duration of Daylight Savings Time and, consequently, changed the local sunrise and sunset times for most parts of the country.⁴ However, due to an unanticipated computer problem that produced erroneous power levels on certain of these recalculated authorizations, the Bureau suspended use of its recalculated PSRAs and PSSAs until correct power levels could be computed.⁵

The Audio Division has implemented new tools to determine the permissible pre-sunrise and post-sunset operating parameters for eligible AM stations, pursuant to section 73.99(e) and (j) of the rules.⁶ The Bureau recognizes that, for practical or technical reasons, not all eligible AM stations will elect to operate with pre-sunrise and post-sunset authority.⁷ Therefore, effective immediately and pursuant to section 73.99(e), the Audio Division will accept letter requests from AM stations intending to operate PSRA or PSSA. The licensee should submit the letter request to Joseph Szczesny or Jerome Manarchuck of the Audio Division AM engineering staff, at PSRPSS@fcc.gov. The request must include (1) the licensee name, station callsign, facility ID, frequency, location, and the file number of the licensed daytime facility; (2) an indication as to whether the licensee intends PSRA operation, PSSA operation, or both; and (3) a description of the method whereby any necessary power reduction will be achieved.

¹ 47 CFR § 73.99(a) - (d).

² *Id.* § 73.99(e) and (j).

³ Pub. L. 109-58, 119 Stat. 615. The Act revised 15 U.S.C. § 260a(a), which sets forth the beginning and end dates for Daylight Savings Time.

⁴ *Media Bureau Modifies Pre-sunrise and Post-sunset Authorizations for AM Radio Stations*, Public Notice, 22 FCC Rcd 4141 (MB 2007).

⁵ *Suspension of Use of Recently Recalculated Pre-Sunrise and Post-Sunset Service Authorizations and Directions for Continued Pre-Sunrise and Post-Sunset Operation During March 2007 by AM Stations in Areas with Daylight Saving Time*, Public Notice, 22 FCC Rcd 4567 (MB 2007).

⁶ 47 CFR § 73.99(e) and (j).

⁷ *See id.* § 73.99(h) (operation under a PSRA or PSSA is not mandatory).

Once an AM station requesting PSRA and/or PSSA has received the operating parameters calculated by the Audio Division for such authorized operation, it may commence such operation immediately.⁸ The PSRA/PSSA operating parameters break down permissible pre-sunrise and post-sunset operating powers into 15-minute (quarter-hour) increments.

Licensees are reminded that, if a station is authorized for greater nighttime operating power than the value shown on the PSRA or PSSA, the licensed value takes precedence. Permissible powers for PSRA and PSSA operation will be calculated using the daytime antenna system or critical hours antenna systems when specified on the license.

For additional information, contact Joseph Szczesny (Joseph.Szczesny@fcc.gov), Jerome Manarchuck (Jerome.Manarchuck@fcc.gov), or Son Nguyen (Son.Nguyen@fcc.gov) of the Audio Division at (202) 418-2700. Direct press inquiries to Nancy Murphy (Nancy.Murphy@fcc.gov) at (202) 418-1043.

FCC NOTICE REQUIRED BY THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

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THE FOREGOING NOTICE IS REQUIRED BY THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 1995, P.L. 104-13, OCTOBER 1, 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3507.

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⁸ Upon receipt of the station's calculated PSRA and/or PSSA operating parameters, the licensee shall place the Notice of Parameters for Operation Under Pre-Sunrise Authority (PSRA) or Post-Sunset Authority (PSSA) into the FCC Authorizations folder of the station's Online Public Inspection File (OPIF). See 47 CFR § 73.3526(e)(1) (requiring that the OPIF include "[a] copy of the current FCC authorization to construct or operate the station, as well as any other documents necessary to reflect any modifications thereto or any conditions that the FCC has placed on the authorization.").