

Stamp and Return



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September 22, 2011

FILED/ACCEPTED

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington DC 20002

OCT 12 2011
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Re: Minnesota Public Radio (FRN 0002-6425-10)
WGGL(FM), Houghton, MI (Facility ID No. 42913)
Request to Modify Main Studio Waiver

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Minnesota Public Radio ("MPR"), licensee of WGGL(FM), Houghton, Michigan, the purpose of this letter is to request modification of the terms of the Commission's May 2, 2000 order (attached), granting a waiver of the main studio rule to operate WGGL as a satellite of commonly-owned noncommercial educational station KSJN(FM), Minneapolis, Minnesota.

MPR proposes to modify the mix of programs to be broadcast by WGGL. As a result of these changes, the plurality of programming will originate from another of MPR's commonly-owned stations, KNOW-FM, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota (Facility ID No. 42949). Accordingly, WGGL will become a satellite of KNOW-FM.

Upon implementing the program change, WGGL's programming will consist of the following:

- Approximately 37% of programming will originate from KNOW-FM, a predominately news and information service.
- Approximately 35% of programming will originate from KSJN, a predominately classical music format station.
- Approximately 12% of programming will be material produced in MPR's studios for broadcast by stations within its network at different times. Examples include: *The Splendid Table*, an MPR staple featuring acclaimed food writer and cooking teacher Lynne Rossetto Kasper; *Being*, a conversation about the big questions at the center of human life, from the science of the human brain to the ancient traditions of the human spirit; and *Marketplace*, an up-to-date report on business, economics, and money.

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-- The remainder of WGGL's programming (approximately 16%) will be material that MPR has acquired from third parties for broadcast by various MPR-owned stations. Examples include: *All Things Considered*, National Public Radio's trademark mix of news and interviews, hosted by Robert Siegel, Michele Norris, and Melissa Block; and *This American Life* from Chicago Public Radio, a weekly public radio show where host Ira Glass chooses a theme from life in America.

In addition, MPR seeks flexibility to modify the specific program mix to respond to input from residents and changes in the local market. MPR believes that the new program mix, together with the opportunity to react rapidly to listener preferences, will enable MPR to continue to serve the needs and interests of Houghton.

MPR reaffirms it will satisfy its Section 73.1125 public interest obligation to Houghton through the commitments described in the Commission's May 2, 2000 letter, except that that the news reporter responsible for Houghton is now based in Duluth

Therefore, MPR requests that the FCC modify the main studio waiver to permit operation of WGGL as a satellite of KNOW with the flexible program mix described herein.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mitzi T Gramling
Associate General Counsel

cc: Michael Wagner, FCC

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20554

May 2, 2000

IN REPLY REFER TO:
180083-ALM

Todd M. Stansbury, Esquire
Wiley, Rein & Fielding
1776 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

In Re: WGGL(FM), Houghton, MI
Minnesota Public Radio
Facility ID No. 42913
Request for Waiver of 47 C.F.R.
§ 73.1125 (Main Studio Rule)

Dear Mr. Stansbury:

The staff has under consideration the request of Minnesota Public Radio ("MPR") for a waiver of the Commission's main studio requirement, *see* 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125, in order to operate the WGGL(FM) as a satellite of its commonly owned NCE station KSJN(FM), Minneapolis, Minnesota.¹ For the reasons set forth below, we shall grant MPR's request for waiver.

Section 73.1125(a) requires each broadcast station to maintain a main studio within the station's principal community contour to ensure that the station will serve the needs and interests of the residents of its community of license. *Amendment of Sections 73.1125 and 73.1130*, 3 FCC Red 5024, 5027 (1988). However, under Section 73.1125(a)(4), the Commission will waive this requirement 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.*

¹ 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 1534, 1562 (1964).

MPR'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)(4) in these circumstances.

MPR proposes to operate WGGL(FM), Houghton, Michigan, as a satellite of KSJN(FM), Minneapolis, Minnesota, approximately 400 miles from Houghton. Where there is a great distance between parent and satellite stations and they are located in different states, as here, we are particularly concerned that the licensee take adequate measures to maintain its awareness of the satellite community's needs and interests. To that end, MPR has pledged to: (1) continue its policy that residents of each service area participate on a regional advisory council which provides input to management on programming issues of interest to the residents throughout MPR's service area, including Houghton; (2) continue its existing relationship with the community of Houghton which has been established by means of membership in MPR; (3) solicit comments from MPR members in Houghton concerning programming and station operation; (4) employ a Houghton-based news reporter who will produce and broadcast local inserts of interest to Houghton and who will subscribe to local and area publications and maintain ongoing relationships with community residents and leaders, who will periodically contact and update the reporter concerning matters of local interest; (5) maintain a toll-free telephone number for residents of Houghton to contact MPR management in accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125(e); and (6) operate a site on the World Wide Web, which enables local residents to receive extensive information and comment on MPR's programming.

In these circumstances, we are persuaded that MPR will meet its local service obligations and thus, that grant of the requested waiver is consistent with the public interest. We remind MPR, however, of the requirement that it maintain a public file for the Houghton station at the main studio of the "parent" station KSJN(FM). See *Review of the Commission's Rules Regarding the Main Studio and Local Public Inspection Files of Broadcast Television and Radio Stations*, 64 Fed. Reg. 35941 (July 2, 1999). We further remind MPR that notwithstanding the grant of the waiver requested here, the public file for WGGL(FM) station must contain the quarterly issues and programs list for Houghton, Michigan required by 47 C.F.R. § 73.3527(e)(8).

Accordingly, the request of Minnesota Public for waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125 IS HEREBY GRANTED.

Sincerely,


 Linda Blair, Chief
 Audio Services Division
 Mass Media Bureau