



# NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See *MCI v. FCC*, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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For Immediate Release  
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## **FCC Seeks Comment to Streamline FM Table of Allotment Rulemaking and AM Community of License Procedures Settlement Window and Freeze on New FM Allotment Rulemakings Announced**

*Washington, DC* – The Federal Communications Commission today adopted a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (NPRM) that seeks comment on a number of proposals to revise and improve FM Table of Allotment and AM community of license modification procedures.

Today's action initiates substantial review and potential reforms of these procedures. The proposals are intended to streamline these procedures, facilitate the expeditious licensing of proposals that advance the fair, equitable, and efficient distribution of radio services, and reduce current backlogs.

The NPRM seeks comment on proposals to modify certain aspects of AM and commercial FM application processing. It also imposes a freeze on the filing of new petitions for rulemaking to amend the Table of Allotments, as well as announces a one-time settlement window for those parties involved in the nearly 300 open commercial FM allotment dockets. This window is designed to expedite the introduction of improved service to many communities during the Commission's consideration of the NPRM.

The NPRM seeks comment on:

- **Permitting Community of License Minor Change Applications** – Proposes to allow AM and FM licensees and permittees to change their community of license by first-come/first-served minor modification applications, streamlining the current two-step procedures.
- **Requiring Simultaneous Filing of Form 301 with Petitions to Add New FM Allotments** – Proposes to require filing Form 301, and paying the required filing fee, with all petitions to add new FM allotments to the Table. This will help ensure that parties who value new allotments most – those who participate in broadcast auctions – will be the ones seeking to add new FM allotments.
- **Limiting the Number of Modifications to the Table in One Proceeding** – Proposes to limit the number of modifications to the Table proposed by any one party to five, absent compelling public interest reasons.

- **Seeking Comment on Circumstances Under Which Sole Local Service Could Become a First Local Service Elsewhere** – Asks whether this policy should be relaxed and, if so, what standards should be applied in allowing such station relocation.

Today's action is taken in response to a petition for rulemaking filed by First Broadcasting Investment Partners, LLC, that sought changes to the FCC's current procedures for modifying the FM Table of Allotments and changing broadcast stations' communities of license in both the AM and commercial FM services. The comment period will close 60 days from publication of the NPRM in the Federal Register, and the reply period will close 90 days from publication.

The FM Table of Allotments lists by community the channels and classes of radio facilities designated for use in the non-reserved portion of the FM band (92.1 – 107.9 MHz). The Table includes communities in the U.S., its territories and possessions. Current procedures require the filing of a petition for rulemaking to add a new allotment to the Table. The petition must specify a community, channel, and station class, and must demonstrate compliance with basic technical rules at the petition's proposed station location.

Action by the Commission, June 9, 2005, by *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (FCC-05-120). Chairman Martin, Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, and Adelstein.

Docket 05-210

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