

memorandum

DATE: July 6, 1982

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Commissioner James H. Quello *JHQ*

SUBJECT: Non-commercial FM Translator Waiver Requests

TO: Larry Harris, Chief, Broadcast Bureau

I have been made aware of a number of waiver requests to (1) permit local origination at non-commercial FM translator stations and (2) to permit delivery of signals to non-commercial FM translator stations via microwave facilities. These proposals are aimed at providing service to remote parts of the Rocky Mountain region.

The local origination waiver requests are aimed at providing a local service with information regarding weather, emergency bulletins, and road conditions, etc. Because of the remote locations of these communities, no alternative service is likely to be available within the foreseeable future.

Terrestrial microwave was selected as a preferred delivery system because it provides a means to provide statewide coverage for the first time to large, sparsely-populated states in the Rocky Mountain region. Because of the great distances involved and the topography of these states, it is not now possible to provide broadcast coverage of legislative activities and news developments of statewide interest to many small, isolated communities. The use of terrestrial microwave could provide this coverage.

I am aware of your concerns that by granting waivers in these instances, we might invite a flood of similar requests from less deserving applicants. I encourage you to consider the very large distances involved and the extreme remoteness of some of these communities in distinguishing these cases from others which might be proposed. It seems to me that this section of the country does present many of the same unique qualities present in Alaska which, justifiably, resulted in special treatment for Alaskan waiver requests.

cc: Clay Pendarvis

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