Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C.

FCC 53-407
88565

In re

Proposed Agreement between United States and Canada respecting Assignment of Class II Standard Broadcast Stations to clear channels

Docket No. 10453

S. T. Jones

PUBLIC NOTICE

During the past year the United States has had occasion to protest against a number of AM station assignments made by the Canadian Government because of potential interference to United States stations. The Canadian Government has taken steps looking towards corrective action. Similarly the Canadian Government has had reason to protest certain assignments made by the United States and, for the most part, satisfactory solutions have been found. However, there remains outstanding certain protests of the Canadian Government directed at assignments made in the United States on clear channels upon which Canada has Class I-A stations. At present the United States has approximately 140 such assignments and there are now pending approximately 40 applications for new assignments of this nature. 1/

At the request of the Canadian Government, conferences between United States and Canadian officials were held on February 23 and 24, 1952 to discuss the problems involved. The Canadian conferees expressed particular concern that in a number of cases Class II stations have been assigned in the United States on Canadian I-A channels, with daytime power at, or near, the maximum permitted, in some instances with antennas directing much of this power northward from locations comparatively close to the Canadian border. Such assignments were indicated by the Canadian conferees to be producing skywave interference which they considered to be serious to the groundwave service of clear channel stations in Canada in the hours of the early morning and late afternoon, particularly during the winter months when the sunrise to sunset periods at the more northerly latitudes of the Canadian stations are considerably shorter than the hours of daytime operation of Class II stations in the United States.

As a result of the conferences held it was made clear that any proposal aimed at the virtual elimination of such interference would be so restrictive as to be wholly impracticable. The Commission now has received from the Canadian Administration a further proposal for an agreement, the terms of which would be intended to provide some measure of relief for Canada with a very limited effect on stations and applicants in the United States.

1/ Under the terms of the North American Regional Broadcasting Agreement (NARBA), Havana, 1937, as reflected in Section 3.25(c) of the Commission's rules, Class II stations with powers up to 50 kilowatts can be assigned in the United States on channels allocated to Canada for I-A use, provided such assignments do not produce more than 5 microvolts per meter groundwave, or more than 25 microvolts per meter 10% skywave on the Canadian border. Unlimited time stations must, furthermore, be located at least 650 miles from the border. The provisions of the NARBA, Washington, D.C., 1950, effecting such assignments are identical. Equivalent use by Canada can be made under both old and new agreements of channels on which the United States is accorded I-A priority.

The agreement now proposed by Canada would be reciprocal in nature, providing the same type and degree of protection from Canadian Class II stations for Class I-A stations in the United States as would be afforded Canadian Class I-A stations from Class II stations in this country. The Commission is presently of the opinion that the reciprocal benefits that will be provided by such an agreement and the circumstances set forth above make acceptance of this agreement in the public interest. 2/ It therefore proposes to recommend to the Department of State that appropriate steps be taken toward this end. The Commission's action in this matter involves a foreign affairs function within the meaning of Section 4 of the Administrative Procedures Act, and therefore does not require the usual rule-making procedure prescribed in that Act. Nevertheless, the Commission will consider comments by interested parties filed on or before May 1, 1953. In accordance with the provisions of Section 1.784 of the Commission's rules and regulations, an original and 14 copies of all comments submitted shall be furnished the Commission.

Attachment

2/ This view, based upon international considerations, is not to be confused with the question whether the rules and regulations of the Commission should be modified for domestic purposes because of information now available concerning the effects of daytime skywave propagation at Standard Broadcast frequencies. This matter is the subject of a proceeding concerning daytime skywave transmissions of Standard Broadcast Station and is involved with the pending clear channel proceeding (Dockets 6333 and 6741 respectively).

Adopted: April 8, 1953
Released: April 13, 1953

ATTACHMENT

Substance of proposed additional agreement between the United States and Canada with respect to use of I-A channels:

(1) A Class II station assigned in either country on a channel on which the other country enjoys I-A priority under the NARBA may not radiate toward the common border an unattenuated field having an intensity greater than that indicated on a graph, described in (3) below, during the following periods:

(a) Beginning at local sunrise at the location of the Class II station and ending one and one-half hours after the time of sunrise at the geographical midpoint between the Class II station and the nearest station on the channel in the country having I-A priority.

(b) Beginning one and one-half hours before the time of sunset at the geographical midpoint between the Class II station and the nearest station on the channel in the country having I-A priority, and ending at local sunset at the location of the Class II station.

(2) These periods are established for each month on the basis of sunrise and sunset times for the fifteenth day of that month, adjusted to the nearest quarter-hour points.

(3) During the periods defined above, the maximum permissible radiation from a Class II station toward any point on the common border will be determined by the distance of the station from the nearest point on that border, in accordance with a graph described below:

(a) The two coordinates of the linear graph are:

(1) Distance from the nearest point of the border in miles.

(2) Maximum permissible radiation toward any point on the border in millivolts per meter at one mile.

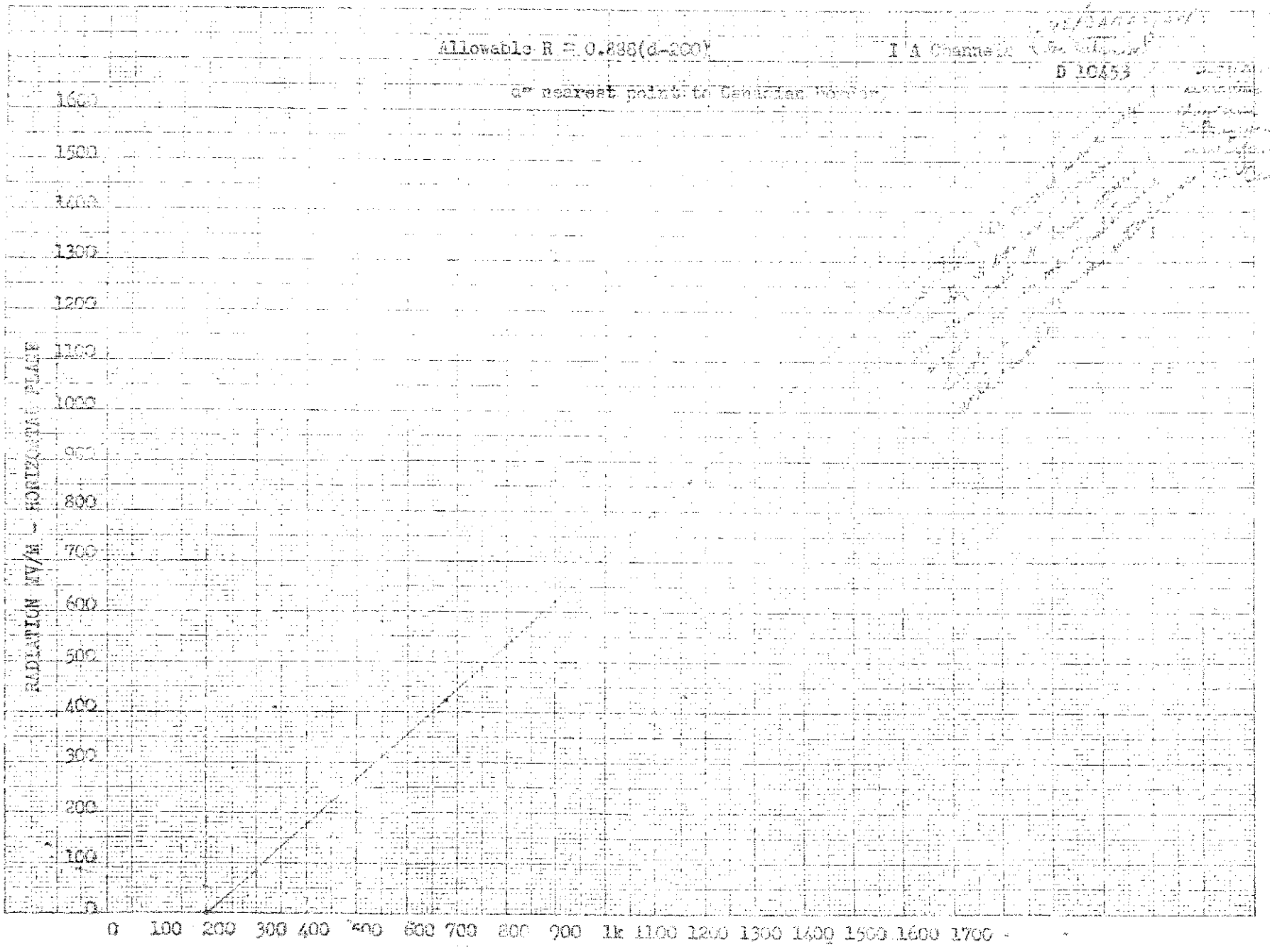
(b) A straight line, drawn through points having coordinates of zero radiation-200 miles, and 400 millivolts per meter at one mile radiation-650 miles, indicates the maximum permissible radiation for a station at any given distance from the border.

The effect of this agreement on existing and proposed stations in this country on Canadian I-A channels would be as follows:

(1) With one exception, to be considered separately, no existing station need modify its present authorized conditions of operation to conform to these requirements.

(2) Applications for new facilities or changes in existing facilities may be granted if they satisfy the above criteria, in addition to other requirements for such stations.

(3) An application not meeting the above criteria, will be referred to the Canadian Government for comment. If that Government finds no serious problem presented by the application on the basis of present or projected use by Canada of its I-A channel and so advises the United States, the application will not be considered ineligible for grant under the provisions of the agreement here involved.


Allowable R = 0.888(d-200)
I A Channels
D 10453
d" nearest point to Canadian border
RADIATION MV/M - HORIZONTAL PLANE
1600
1500
1400
1300
1200
1100
1000
900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1k 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700