



PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

60192

News media information 202/418-0500 Recorded listing of releases and texts 202/418-2222.

Released: October 16, 1995

LOW POWER TELEVISION LICENSEES NOTICE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR FOUR-LETTER CALL SIGNS

Pursuant to the First Report and Order in MM Docket No. 93-114, 9 FCC Rcd 2555 (1994), low power television stations (LPTV) are eligible to apply for four-letter call signs, thereby modifying their initially assigned five-character alpha-numeric call signs. In that Order, the Commission stated that such modifications may be competitively beneficial to the low power television industry by promoting viewer recognition of LPTV stations and by enabling LPTV operators to more effectively market their stations.

In the Order, the Commission stated that a phased implementation of the new call sign policy would be necessary to handle expeditiously the potentially large number of requests for modified call signs, and that a schedule would be established by public notice whereby licensees and permittees could apply at the appropriate time, with the oldest stations having the first opportunity.

Accordingly, notice is hereby given that, effective October 30, 1995, the eligibility schedule will be extended such that a modified call sign in the form of a four-letter call sign may be requested for any low power television station, which was granted a license by the Commission at any time. No call signs may be reserved. Subsequent public notices will be issued setting dates for when call sign requests from low power television station permittees can be filed. Television translator stations are not eligible for four-letter call signs.

Call sign requests will be processed in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 73.3550 of the Commission's Rules. Requests for four-letter call signs must be made by letter to the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20554. An original and one copy of the letter must be submitted. A filing fee is presently not required for LPTV call sign modifications. As many as five call sign choices, listed in descending order of preference, may be included in a single request. Requesters must also submit the drug certification statement required by Section 1.2002 of the Commission's Rules. Incomplete or otherwise defective filings will be returned by the FCC.

Call signs are assigned on a "first-come-first-served" basis. Receipt by the FCC of a request for an available call sign blocks the acceptance of subsequent requests until the first received request is processed to completion. In the case of requests by low power television operators for the same call sign being received on the same date, the assignment will be made to the station having the longest continuous record of broadcast operation under substantially unchanged ownership and control. If a low power television operator and an AM, FM or full power TV operator apply on the same date at the FCC, the AM, FM or full power TV operator will prevail. It should be noted that a low power television station operator may not request a call sign used by another broadcast station unless the stations are commonly owned or unless the LPTV operator has the other station's written consent. Two or more LPTV stations may not have the same call sign. All four-letter call signs assigned to low power television stations will include a suffix of "-LP."

Telephone requests about the availability of particular call signs may be made to the FCC Reference Center, (202) 418-0270.