

Window Restrictions

The digital companion channel filing window is limited to **incumbent** permittees and licensees. Applicants must identify their associated analog facility.

The protected contour of the proposed digital facility must overlap the protected contour of the associated analog station. See 47 C.F.R. § 74.787(4)(b)(1).

Window Restrictions

Applicants may not have filed for an **on-channel digital conversion** of their analog station.

Applicants may apply for only a **single** digital companion channel for each existing analog channel.

Due Diligence

The digital companion channel filing window will be conducted as an auction filing window. The technical merits of the engineering portions of the Form 175 will not be evaluated by staff until after the auction. Engineering proposals will only be reviewed to determine mutual exclusivity (MX).

It is possible to go through the auction, bid, file an FCC Form 346 and have the staff determine that the proposed facility cannot be implemented.

Due Diligence

There are a number of matters that prospective applicants need to research. These include, but are not limited to:

1. Pending applications. They have priority processing.
2. Full service DTV and NTSC station licenses, permits and applications. Digital companion channels (including those licensed to Class A stations) will be licensed on a secondary-basis and can be displaced. Proposed digital companion channels must protect all full service analog and digital channels. See 47 C.F.R. § 74.703 and 74.793.

Due Diligence

Digital companion channels proposed on channels 52-59 are secondary to and must protect new wireless facilities on those channels. At the long-form stage, applicants for these channels will also be required to certify the unavailability of any suitable in-core channel. Applicants will also be required to notify potentially affected wireless licensees on the spectrum comprising its proposed channel and the first adjacent channels at least 30 days prior to filing a long-form application.

Due Diligence

It is the **bidder's responsibility** to investigate and evaluate all these factors and any other that might be relevant.

There are a number of places where a prospective applicant should conduct research. These include the engineering database and CDBS. You can access CDBS at <http://www.fcc.gov/mb>.