

I would like to state, for the record, that the Proposed Rulemaking concerning LPFM broadcast stations is an idea that has had a need in smaller communities for many, many years. The ability to broadcast public comment and news from and about these very small towns to their residents would be invaluable. Also, the ability to notify, on a very local level, the population, of any public safety issues or information would be invaluable. I work as an EMT with the local rescue and in the past two years we have had an ice storm that caused power outages of up to three weeks, a train wreck that forced us to evacuate a one mile diameter area of all people, as well as smaller road / bridge closures caused by spring flooding. The ability to notify the mostly elderly population would be of great value in the saving of lives as well as the comfort in knowing that they have not been overlooked. I for one welcome a service such as this that allows a broadcaster at the grassroots level, to serve the needs of the very small community (our population is approx 1200 people, 70% over 65 years old). The people need to have access to local news and information as well as the vehicle for public commentary about those same local issues. The larger "local" stations do not serve the very small communities as well as their larger "capital generating bases" simply because it is not as profitable. I hold a Restricted Radiotelephone Operator Permit (1989) as well as my Amateur Advanced license. I am also the Communications Officer for Tri Town Rescue. If this proposal becomes a rule, I for one would welcome the chance to apply for the permit or license in my area. I can see the value it could have in public service issues.

I do wish to address two points of interest concerning (1.) revenue generation - pro/con and (2.) equipment.

- 1.) Pro-- I feel that the ability to generate revenue from very low priced adds would be beneficial due to the ability of "mom and pop" businesses to advertise to their own local community. It would also help to defray some of the costs of placing and keeping a station on the air.
Con-- I feel that the existing "local" stations as well as the NAB would fight any proposal of revenue generation "tooth and nail" in order to protect "their" profit margins. Now I'm all for any business to make a profit but radio is more than a business, it is a service. I would hate to see this proposal fail because of a fear of lost revenue to these large businesses. The loss of the quality and service to the local community could not be calculated.
- 2.)---- I have been involved in amateur radio and radio in general for over 30 years. All of it nonprofit. I am well versed in hands on as well as design and technical aspects of radio transmission, EMI/RFI etc. I would suggest respectfully, that any transmitter portion of this service (up to 100 watts), be produced in a sealed case, have a non-adjustable (user) output and a preset modulation level. This would prevent any "tweaking" of the transmitter by persons who are not experienced in the proper adjustment of the transmitter. This would help to prevent EMI/RFI to other electronics as well as keeping the spectrum "clean". Another byproduct of the sealed transmitters is the generation of industry/manufacturing as well as employment that will increase due to the demand for this equipment.

I do hope that my comments are helpful, feel free to contact me at any time about this issue.

Wayne

WB1GFF