



The **WALT DISNEY** Company

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March 18, 1999

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Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: *In the Matter of Creation of a Low Power Radio Service*
MM Docket No. 99-2; RM-9208; RM-9242

Dear Madam Secretary:

On behalf of The Walt Disney Company and its wholly owned subsidiary ABC, Inc., transmitted herewith for filing with the Commission are an original and four copies of its Request for Extension of the Date for Filing Comments in the above-captioned proceeding.

If there are any questions in connection with the foregoing, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane H. Davidson
Director, Government Relations
The Walt Disney Company

Enclosures

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
Creation of a Low) MM Docket No. 99-25
Power Radio Service) RM-9208
) RM-9202
)
To: The Commission

Request for Extension of the Date for Filing Comments

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §1.46, The Walt Disney Company, on behalf of its subsidiary ABC, Inc. ("ABC"), hereby respectfully requests an extension of the date for filing comments designated in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the above-captioned proceeding ("NPRM") for a period of ninety (90) days from the date set forth by the Commission in the NPRM. ABC requests that the Commission grant this request in order to provide ABC the time necessary to prepare its response in this proceeding. In addition, ABC requests that the date for filing reply comments be extended for a period of one hundred fifty (150) days from the date for reply comments set forth in the NPRM. Such an extension of the date for filing Reply Comments would thus provide interested parties with a period of ninety (90) days to evaluate and respond to the initial comments filed.¹

¹ Should the Commission grant this request, the revised deadlines would become July 12, 1999 for Comments, and October 11, 1999 for Reply Comments.

The Commission has raised numerous important technical issues in its NPRM, which we believe require careful analysis and review. In particular, ABC believes that receiver susceptibility to second and third adjacent channel interference must be carefully analyzed, and potential problem areas, if any, should be modeled and tested.

The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) has commissioned a study to measure receivers. Armed with that information, ABC intends to commission a series of studies to evaluate the technical impact the proposals set forth in the Commission's NPRM may have on the FM spectrum, and in particular on the ABC stations. ABC has been advised that the NAB tests will not be completed until at least 30 days from the date of this petition. Additional time will then be needed to (a) analyze the results of these tests, (b) utilize the data developed therein in ABC's own studies, and (c) for ABC to prepare its comments to the Commission.

As part of its analysis, ABC is currently identifying potential low power station allocations consistent with the FCC's proposals in the NPRM, utilizing the spectrum availability analysis program identified in the NPRM and recently released to the public by the Mass Media Bureau. ABC plans to use this information to produce maps of identifiable interference, if any, and to further evaluate (using the NAB data) on which receivers such interference might be expected to occur. These maps will be included in our filing, enabling ABC to more effectively respond to the technical questions and issues raised in the NPRM.

In addition, ABC respectfully submits that the time period for filing reply comments that was established by the Commission in the NPRM -- thirty days from the date for filing initial comments -- is inadequate for the participants in this proceeding to

be able to properly respond to the initial comments filed. ABC anticipates that many commenters in addition to ABC and the NAB will submit technical data and analysis, and therefore sufficient time will be needed for commenters to analyze and develop responses to the detailed and highly technical information that will be submitted to the Commission. Moreover, the Commission has raised numerous serious policy questions that should be addressed thoughtfully and in consideration of the technical findings submitted by interested parties.

It is our hope that the Commission will look favorably upon this request, granting ABC adequate time to conduct the studies that we believe will enable us to begin to fully respond to this very far reaching and important NPRM with the care and analysis that it deserves.

Respectfully submitted,

The Walt Disney Company (ABC)
1150 17th Street, N.W.
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036



Diane H. Davidson
Director, Government Relations