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Before the  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

Creation of a Low  
Power Radio Service

MM Docket No. 99-25

RM-9208  
RM-9242

Comments of  
**Bob Holladay**  
Holladay Broadcasting of Louisiana, Inc.  
KJLO-FM, KLIP-FM, KMLB-AM, KRVV-FM, KJMG-FM

Submitted July 8, 1999

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These comments are being submitted in regards to creation of new low power fm radio stations. I feel as though this is the biggest issue facing the radio industry today, and I am adamantly opposed to the establishment of any low power radio service.

Numerous technical issues have been raised, many of which the Commission failed to consider before releasing the LPFM proposal. The interference protection standards are in place to maintain the integrity of the spectrum. The Commission currently allocates stations using specific criteria for interference protections. The LPFM proposes to eliminate second and third adjacent channel restrictions in order to make room for LPFM stations. However, the Commission failed to conduct any studies on the interference impact of the proposed LPFM service. Low power FM will cause interference to existing stations. The proposal would eliminate adjacent channel protections to provide room for LPFM. However, the Commission completely failed to take into consideration the impact on existing stations, and their listeners. Elimination and/or alteration to the standards will result in increased interference to existing broadcaster's signals - and a loss of service to listeners.

Here in Monroe, Louisiana, LPFM stations will impede imperative information getting out to our community. Currently, in the instance of severe weather, several of my radio stations go to an "all-weather" format. This includes current weather updates and live callers from severe weather areas. This all-weather format is used when our listeners lives are in imminent danger



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due to flash flood, tornado, and other menacing conditions. LPFM stations could, in many instances, interfere with this life-saving information that we provide to our community, and put many listeners lives in danger.

In order to establish a low power service, the Commission would have to drastically alter its existing interference protection standards. Low Power FM will harm the development of In-Band, On-Channel ("IBOC") digital radio. The Commission failed to conduct any studies on the interference impact of the proposed LPFM service on IBOC. The proponents of IBOC digital radio have been developing their systems based on the current interference protection standards. The systems utilize the "sidebands" of the analog signal to transmit the digital signal without the need for additional spectrum. Any alteration to the second-adjacent channel spacing restrictions could harm radio broadcasters in their transition to digital.

Even if the Commission eliminates second and third adjacent channel protections, very few stations would be available in the urban markets. Serving urban communities and neighborhoods is a stated goal of the Commission in establishing this service. The LPFM proposal will not achieve what the Commission wants. Clearly, it is folly to spend the resources to establish an entirely new service that ultimately is unable to serve the listeners for which it was intended. The Commission claims that it received over 13,000 requests for a low power



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station last year. Unfortunately, under this proposal - or any proposal - there will never be enough spectrum for even those persons to have their own station.

Even if it is determined that a station is available in a particular area, there is no guarantee that minority and female owners will want and or actually receive a license - whether they are allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis or through an auction process. Furthermore, the economic viability of low power stations is questionable. LPFM will not create viable stations to increase minority and female ownership.

The Commission is proposing to allow "pirate" broadcasters to apply for LPFM licenses as long as they have voluntarily ceased operating an unlicensed station. However, the Commission refuses to allow applicants for an LPFM station from any person who has an attributable interest in a broadcast station. The LPFM proposal is a reward to "pirate" broadcasters who have been violating the law.

In the 1980's, the Commission began a proceeding that ultimately ended in the revision of its rules that allowed thousands of new stations on the air. The result of the infamous "Docket 80-90" was that there were too many stations in the marketplace. The Commission subsequently loosened radio ownership restrictions in order to bolster the industry. A culmination of this was the lifting of the national radio ownership restrictions and further loosening of the local



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restrictions in the Telecomm Act of 1996. Docket 80-90 was the direct cause of consolidation. The Commission should not travel down this path again.

The Commission altered its rules in 1978 to prohibit further licensing of 10-watt "Class D" noncommercial educational stations because it determined the spectrum could be used more efficiently by larger stations that can reach more people. Low Power FM proposals for 1 - 10 watt stations are an inefficient use of the spectrum. This premise remains true today.

Low Power FM will be an administrative nightmare for the Commission. The Commission has limited resources. The Notice proposes to provide assistance to LPFM applicants - assistance unlike any ever provided to full-power applicants. Additionally, there is the increased regulatory and enforcement burden - not only for the newly licensed LPFM stations, but also for all of the unlicensed "pirate" radio stations that refuse or are unable to obtain licenses and continue to broadcast. The LPFM proposal would allow LPFM stations to operate under less regulation than full-power stations. This threatens to turn the FM band into a CB radio situation. The Commission does not have the resources to deal with the introduction of hundreds of new stations in which the majority of new licensees will have minimal, if any, experience in operating a radio station and won't be concerned with operating under any regulations. The Commission is proposing to place amateur stations in the middle of a mature service.



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The purpose of these comments was to express my opposition on Low Power FM Radio. The term "low power" is definitely a misnomer because the commitment to low power carries the power to destroy the ability for broadcasters to serve our communities that we now enjoy.