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July 20, 1999  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12th Street S.W. Room TW-B204  
Washington, DC 20554

**COMMENTS IN RESPONSE to MM DOCKET 99-25 (LPFM Radio) From  
Penn-Jersey Educational Radio Corporation, Licensee of WDVR FM.**

**THE PROPOSAL TO CREATE A NEW LOW POWER FM RADIO  
SERVICE IS A SERIOUS THREAT TO MANY EXISTING LOW POWER  
NON-COMMERCIAL STATIONS AND MAY BE A RECIPE FOR CHAOS.**

The concept of MM 99-25 or any other such proposal for a Low Power FM Radio Service may prove to be a death sentence for many existing low power Non-Commercial Educational stations (NCE) and an uncontrollable situation for FM broadcasting in general.

A new LPFM service, such as the ones being proposed will have a profound effect on hundreds of existing, low power NCE stations like WDVR. Since stations in the NCE band are not allocated according to minimum distance rules, the added new stations can be a source of severe interference. WDVR is located in a rural area with a large percentage of its listeners, and thus also a large percentage of its funding, beyond the 60 dbu contour. WDVR is already hemmed in on three sides and is operating under TV Channel-6 restrictions (Vertical-only polarization). The advent of a glut of new LPFM stations on its perimeter, in an already crowded spectrum, may be the final straw. This type of service must not be added to the NCE band where hundreds of stations are already operating under severe limitations.

**MICRO POWER AND LOW POWER ARE MISNOMERS**

The proposed LPFM stations, even at one-watt and a height of 100 feet, if not strictly regulated, could be the cause of severe interference. The designations "Micro power" and "Low Power" are misnomers when describing FM radio and can be very misleading to one unfamiliar with the character of FM radio. Even one-watt in the wrong place, can do enormous damage. The Commission is well aware of this fact as evidenced by its regulation for "Unlicensed Operation" being less than 100mw. A large number of FM stations utilize translators to augment their signals and fill in dead spots. It is not uncommon to cover an entire urban area including suburbs with a full-quieting signal using as little as ten watts. The frightening aspect of these proposals is the fact that 1000-watts is considered low power. In reality, the capture ratio for undesired to desired signal in FM is only 1:1. And a strong local signal can easily capture the frequency or interfere locally with a full-power station within its protected contour.

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**STANDARDS MUST NOT BE LOWERED**

Another danger in some of these LPFM proposals is the concept of minimal regulation and qualifications required for licensing. The FCC has always relied, to a large extent, on the good will and honesty of professional broadcasters to comply with regulations and good engineering practices. And the average broadcaster does run a tight ship; he has to, it's his livelihood which represents a huge investment. However, it may be a fatal mistake to expect the same regard or respect for Commission rules from the "Citizen Broadcaster" who is operating under less stringent rules. The integrity of the FM Broadcast band must not be compromised. The playing field must be kept level for all players.

**THE CONCEPT OF LPFM IS ILL-TIMED**

In the next few years radio broadcasting will be going through revolutionary changes, namely, digital and satellite radio. And at this juncture the Commission has yet to adopt standards for these new technologies. It is not prudent, at this time, to be instituting new radio services which will clutter an already over crowded, non-renewable resource. Adding a new service at this time, especially a lightly regulated so-called "Low Power" service, is at the very least, premature and extremely risky. In light of the fact that this may be the most important and far reaching decision the Commission has made in recent years, I am appealing to you to give careful consideration to these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank W. Napurano".

Frank W. Napurano,  
Founder & President