

In reviewing the comments on LPFM, it does not take long to figure out what is really happening in this case. The listening public clearly wants more choices and supports LPFM. Many other community groups, as well as some state or municipal agencies also echo this support. If the people were adequately served by the existing system, there would be little interest in this issue. Indeed the number of comments, especially from outside the industry is unusual in an FCC proceeding. Most are making constructive comments, aimed at maximising diversity by allowing Microbroadcasting with as few restrictions as possible and by reducing or eliminating the LP-1000 class which may be too much like conventional FM. People mostly agree, with differing formulas, that both commercial and non-commercial LPFM's should be established.

Then there are the other comments. These come from mostly from large institutions with expensive lawyers to word them politely and make them look nice. They come from the NAB, NPR and large Religious broadcasters. In these, the attitudes of the public are unimportant. Instead elaborate excuses are made to mask the fact that those who serve us poorly don't want to risk competition from actual members of this underserved public.

The most frequent excuse is interference. Some have even requested more time to spin the facts their way. In reality, the truth is simple enough to have already been stated. Almost every major market has many grandfathered short-spaced second adjacents, and these stations have never seemed hampered by it; some are market leaders. While big broadcasting scampers to find test results which can be made to suggest their position, the real-world lab has been operating on our FM dials for about 40 years during which we have all listened easily and clearly to stations with strong local second-adjacents. Any new IBOC system which cannot handle these stations would fail with or without LPFM.

The FCC, as a part of the government in a representative democracy, has only one correct choice -- enact the will of the people. To accept institutional pressure and propaganda over the clear wishes of an informed public would be a dereliction of duties of an unexcusable nature.

...Sam Brown