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Clarification of Notification Procedures for Dual Antenna Hybrid Digital Operation

The Second Report and Order, First Order on Reconsideration and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in MM Docket No. 99-325 was published in the Federal Register on August 15, 2007. Therefore, the effective date of new notification procedures for FM Broadcast stations operating in hybrid digital in-band, on-channel ("IBOC") mode with dual antenna systems is September 14, 2007.

In response to several inquiries from the Public, this Public Notice clarifies the notification procedures for stations currently operating with dual antenna systems under Special Temporary Authorization ("STA"). The technical information requirements for STA requests for dual antenna operation, which were set forth in a Public Notice released on March 17, 2004, are substantially the same as those which will be required for dual antenna IBOC notifications going forward under the new rules adopted in the *Second Report and Order*. In addition, those stations that commenced dual-antenna IBOC operation via STA already have been designated as hybrid digital stations in the Media Bureau's Consolidated Database System ("CDBS"). For these reasons, FM stations that are currently operating digitally under STA are deemed to have provided the notification required by newly adopted 47 C.F.R. Section 73.404, and such stations will not be required to file a new notification with the Commission, unless a subsequent change is made in the technical parameters of the IBOC operation or the technical contact information.

For additional information, contact Charles N. Miller or Ann Gallagher at the Audio Division, Media Bureau at (202) 418-2700.

By: Chief, Media Bureau

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¹ See Public Notice, Use of Separate Antennas to Initiate Digital FM Transmissions Approved, 19 FCC Rcd 4722 (MB 2004).