



NEWS

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FCC FINES 28 RADIO STATIONS FOR PUBLIC FILE VIOLATIONS *New Action Taken As Part of License Renewal Process for DC, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia Radio Stations*

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission’s Media Bureau today issued 28 Notices of Apparent Liability (NAL) to radio stations that did not adequately comply with the FCC’s public file requirements. The stations were ordered to pay fines of \$3,000 each. The Bureau determined that \$4,000 fines were warranted but made downward adjustments based on the licensees’ voluntary disclosures of the violations.

These violations were disclosed as part of the three-year nationwide broadcast station license renewal process that began recently for Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia radio stations. Today’s actions mark a change in policy from the last renewal cycle (1995-1998) and reflect the Media Bureau’s effort to enforce public file rules in a meaningful way as part of the renewal process. FCC rules require broadcast licensees to maintain a public inspection file containing specific types of information related to station operations. The purpose of this requirement is to provide the public with timely information at regular intervals throughout the license period.

W. Kenneth Ferree, Chief of the Media Bureau, said, “Our decision to fine these stations reflects the seriousness of the violations, and it is consistent with FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell’s initiative to promote and protect localism in broadcasting. The public file provides citizens with important information about broadcasters’ service to their communities. Make no mistake about it – the FCC will not tolerate less than diligent efforts to ensure the accuracy and timeliness of that information.”

Copies of the NALs can be obtained on today’s Daily Digest or at www.fcc.gov/mb.

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