

The Commission is concerned that the initial deadline for filing comments, December 26, 1995, falls at an inconvenient time, in the midst of the holiday season. As a courtesy to those planning to file comments on the draft rules and in the interest of obtaining comments based on a thorough review of the draft rules, the Commission has conferred this extension. It is Ordered:

1. Comments addressing the draft rules published at 60 FR 54981-89 are now due on January 8, 1996.

2. The Secretary shall publish this Notice and Order in the Federal Register.

Issued by the Commission on December 12, 1995.

Margaret P. Crenshaw,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95-30640 Filed 12-15-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-FW-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 95-141; RM-8642]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Frederiksted, VI and Culebra and Carolina, PR

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; dismissal.

SUMMARY: The Commission dismisses the petition for rule making filed by Jose J. Arzuaga, proposing the allotment of Channel 298B1 at Frederiksted, Virgin Islands, as its third local FM transmission service (RM-8642). See 60 FR 46563, September 7, 1995. We also dismiss petitioner's counterproposal to allotment Channel 293B in lieu of Channel 298B1 at Frederiksted, Virgin Islands, and to allot Channel 298B1 at Culebra, Puerto Rico. The petitioner has abandoned his interest in a Class B1 allotment at Frederiksted, Virgin Islands, and there are no other timely expressions of interest for the channel. In addition, petitioner's counterproposal is not consistent with the Commission's technical requirements. With this action, this proceeding is terminated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon P. McDonald, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's *Report and Order*, MM Docket No. 95-141, adopted November 30, 1995, and released December 11, 1995. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying

during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, NW., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractors, International Transcription Service, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 2100 M Street, NW., Suite 140, Washington, DC 20037.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio broadcasting.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 95-30615 Filed 12-15-95; 8:45 am]

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47 CFR Parts 73 and 76

[MM Docket No. 95-176; FCC 95-484]

In the Matter of Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice of inquiry.

SUMMARY: This Notice of Inquiry solicits comment on the current availability, cost, and uses of closed captioning and video description of television video programming. This information will provide the Commission a record on these important services, which benefit individuals with disabilities. It will also enable the Commission to assess what further actions may be appropriate to promote these services.

DATES: Interested parties may file comments on or before January 29, 1996, and reply comments on or before February 14, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles Logan, (202) 776-1653.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Inquiry in MM Docket No. 95-176, FCC 95-484, adopted December 1, 1995 and released on December 4, 1995. The complete text of this Notice is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and also may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., 2100 M Street, N.W., Suite 140, Washington, DC 20037, (202) 857-3800.

Synopsis of Notice of Inquiry

1. The Notice seeks information on the current availability, cost, and uses of closed captioning and video description, and also asks comment on what further Commission actions may be appropriate to promote these services. It also seeks comment on the appropriate means of promoting their wider use in programming delivered by television broadcasters, cable operators, and other video programming providers.

I. Background

2. Captioning is similar to subtitles in that it displays the audio portion of a television signal as printed words on the television screen. To assist viewers who are hearing disabled, captions also identify speakers, sound effects, music, and laughter. Video description provides audio descriptions of a program's key visual elements that are inserted during the natural pauses in the program's dialogue.

3. Both the Senate and the House of Representatives have passed bills (H.R. 1555 and S. 652), which, if enacted, would require the Commission to adopt regulations to ensure that video programming is accessible to persons with hearing disabilities through the provision of closed captioning, including requiring "video programming providers or owners" to maximize the accessibility of previously published or exhibited programs by adding closed captioning. Both bills would allow the Commission to exempt programs from these requirements in certain circumstances, including circumstances where the closed captioning would impose an unreasonable financial burden. The House bill would require the Commission to conduct an inquiry into the current extent of closed captioning as well as other issues. In addition, both bills would require the Commission to study the use of video description. The House bill further provides that the Commission may adopt regulation it deems necessary to promote the accessibility of video programming to persons with visual impairments.

II. The Public Interest Benefits of Closed Captioning and Video Description

4. The Notice asks parties to elaborate on the importance and nature of the public interest benefits of closed captioning and video description. It asks parties to submit information regarding the number of individuals with hearing and vision disabilities in this country who can benefit from these innovations, including the basis for such estimates.