

intended to operate within the Baltimore COTP zone. This RNA was repealed on February 27, 1998 (63 FR 9942), because it was believed that it was unnecessary to impose general continuous restrictions on all vessels through the winter months and that prudent mariners could make decisions about whether it was safe for their vessel to operate in ice.

Interest in a vessel management tool similar to the RNA previously in place in the Baltimore Captain of the Port Zone has been resurrected. It is anticipated that a RNA will decrease the administrative burden to the Coast Guard and industry, establish consistent policy throughout the Fifth Coast Guard District, and assist the management of the limited Coast Guard ice capable resources.

The ice navigation season historically begins in the Delaware and Chesapeake Bay regions as early as the first week in December and in Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds in North Carolina in January. Ice has historically ceased to be an impediment to all types of marine navigation interests by the first week in March. During a moderate or severe winter, frozen waterways can become a serious problem, impeding a vessel's ability to maneuver, and causing visual aids to navigation to be submerged, destroyed or moved off station. Vessel watertight integrity can also be compromised by ice abrasion and ice pressure with the greatest adverse effect on fiberglass and wood hulls and the least effect on steel or ice-reinforced hulls.

When ice conditions deteriorate to a point where independent vessel operations are not possible, convoy operations are required to enable vessels to transit. Coast Guard vessels built to operate in the ice typically conduct convoy operations. In recent years, the number of Coast Guard resources available to operate in ice has been reduced by 59%. In 1984, the Fifth Coast Guard District had 17 Coast Guard surface assets capable of working in various ice conditions. There are currently seven surface assets capable in the Fifth District to maintain aids to navigation, perform convoy missions in ice, and execute other Coast Guard missions that can be performed only by an ice capable vessel. These surface assets possess capabilities defined by their draft, horsepower, crew size, and their designed ability to break ice. Additionally, climatic, hydrographic, geographic, and operational constraints determine where and when these vessels may conduct convoy operations. Of the seven surface assets available to operate in ice, one has the capability to

break 14 inches of ice at three knots; three have the capability to break up to nine inches at three knots; and three have the capability to break up to six inches of ice at three knots. The Coast Guard's ability to support convoy operations is finite, therefore, it behooves commercial traffic as well as the Coast Guard to effectively plan where and how surface assets are employed.

In addition to the deepwater ports of Hampton Roads, Baltimore, Richmond, and Philadelphia that support manufacturing and trade, many waterways of the Fifth Coast Guard District are used for the transport of fuels for residential and commercial use. The primary transportation method to deliver fuel oil for power generation and home heating is by barge, and convoy operations will ensure the reliable delivery of this essential commodity. In the event of a waterborne emergency during the ice season, the Coast Guard's available surface search and rescue (SAR) assets are limited to the same seven Coast Guard cutters capable of performing convoy duty. Establishing a method for the COTPs to regulate vessel traffic will enable the Coast Guard to better manage available resources and prioritize Coast Guard missions when ice is present on Fifth District waterways.

Captains of the Port have the authority (33 CFR part 160, subpart B) to restrict and manage vessel movement by issuing a COTP order. However, this authority may only be directed to a specific vessel, facility or an individual to restrict or stop vessel operations and cannot be issued to "all vessels" or a class of vessels. A Regulated Navigation Area (RNA) is a water area that allows the District Commander to control vessel operations to preserve the safety of adjacent waterfront structures, to ensure safe transit of vessels, or to protect the marine environment. RNA's are typically established when extensive vessel controls are needed over an extended period of time. A Regulated Navigation Area is, therefore, the more appropriate means to control vessel operations to ensure safe transit of vessels when conditions require higher standards of control than that provided by the Navigation Rules.

The Coast Guard recognizes that there are exceptions to every circumstance. With this in mind, the RNA would include a waiver process for vessel operators who may not meet the criteria of the operating restrictions but who may have the capability to operate in ice safely. This waiver would be granted at the discretion of the Captain of the Port.

Questions

Public response to the following questions will help the Coast Guard develop a more complete and carefully considered rulemaking. The questions are not all-inclusive, and any supplemental information is welcome. In responding to each question, please explain the reasons for each answer.

1. Would this type of rulemaking benefit commercial vessels operating within the Fifth Coast Guard District?
2. Are shaft horsepower, hull material, and convoys the best criteria to restrict vessel traffic when ice impedes navigation?
3. What are the most effective threshold levels to set shaft horsepower restrictions?
4. Are separate rules for each COTP zone required to effectively regulate vessel traffic when ice impedes navigation?
5. If a company is able to provide its own convoy escort service, should this be considered in the RNA?
6. What consideration should be given for various tug and barge towing configurations? Is it practical to apply the same shaft horsepower requirement for each towing configuration?
7. Should the horsepower rating for a tractor tug be considered differently than a traditional tug shaft horsepower?
8. Would a shaft horsepower/overall length or shaft horsepower/overall tonnage ratio be a better method of prescribing power requirements for towing vessels?
9. What, if any, elements of barge hull design should be considered?
10. Are there any other criteria that should be considered in developing this rulemaking?

Dated: February 4, 2003.

James D. Hull,

Vice Admiral, Coast Guard, Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 03-3981 Filed 2-18-03; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[DA 03-192; MB Docket No. 03-24, RM-10636; MB Docket No. 03-25, RM-10637; MB Docket No. 03-26, RM-10638]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Apopka, Homosassa Springs, and Maitland, FL; Basin City and Othello, WA; and Shawnee and Topeka, KS

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document sets forth three separate proposals to amend the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 73.202(b). The Commission requests comment on a petition filed by Cox Radio, Inc. pursuant to Section 1.420(i) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.420(i). Petitioner proposes to change the community of allotment and upgrade the license for Channel 237A at Apopka, Florida, to Channel 237C3 at Maitland, Florida, and to modify the license of WPYO(FM) accordingly. In order to facilitate those changes, petitioner further proposes to relocate the transmitter site of WXCW(FM), Homosassa Springs, Florida, and to modify the license for WXCW(FM). Channel 237C3 can be allotted to Maitland in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements with a site restriction of 14.7 km (9.2 miles) east of Maitland. The coordinates for Channel 237C3 at Maitland are 28–39–38 North Latitude and 81–13–02 West Longitude. Petitioner contends that the proposal does not require a *Tuck* analysis because it is relocating from one community in the Orlando, Florida Urbanized Area to another community also located within that Urbanized Area, but the petition nonetheless contains a *Tuck* analysis to establish that Maitland is independent of the Orlando Urbanized Area. See Supplementary Information *infra*.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before March 24, 2003, and reply comments on or before April 8, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve counsel for the petitioner as follows: Kevin F. Reed, Elizabeth A. M. McFadden, and Nam E. Kim, Dow, Lohnes & Albertson, PLLC (counsel for Cox Radio, Inc.), 1200 New Hampshire Avenue, NW., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036; Barry A. Friedman, Thompson Hine LLP (counsel for Wheeler Broadcasting, Inc.), 1920 N Street, NW., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036–1600; and Mark N. Lipp and J. Thomas Nolan, Shook, Hardy & Bacon (counsel for Cumulus Licensing Corporation), 600 Fourteenth Street, NW., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20005–2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah A. Dupont, Media Bureau, (202) 418–7072.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MB Docket Nos. 03–24, 03–25, and 03–26; adopted

January 29, 2003 and released January 31, 2003. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Information Center (Room CY–A257), 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY–B402, Washington, DC 20554, telephone (202) 863–2893.

The Commission further requests comment on a petition filed by Wheeler Broadcasting, Inc. pursuant to Section 1.420(i) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.420(i). Petitioner proposes to change the community of allotment and upgrade the license for Channel 248C3 at Othello, Washington, to Channel 248C2 at Basin City, Washington, as a first local service, and to modify the license of KZLN(FM) accordingly. Channel 248C2 can be allotted to Basin City in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements with a site restriction of 7.2 km (4.5 miles) north of Basin City. The coordinates for Channel 248C2 at Basin City are 46–39–26 North Latitude and 119–10–23 West Longitude. The proposal does not require a *Tuck* analysis because neither the existing Channel 248C3 facility at Othello nor the proposed Channel 248C2 facility at Basin City cover any part of any urbanized area within the 70 dBu contour.

The Commission further requests comment on a petition filed by Cumulus Licensing Corporation pursuant to Section 1.420(i) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.420(i). Petitioner proposes to change the community of allotment and downgrade the license for Channel 299C at Topeka, Kansas, to Channel 299C1 at Shawnee, Kansas, and to modify the license of KMAJ(FM) accordingly. Channel 299C1 can be allotted to Shawnee in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements with a site restriction of 41.3 km (25.6 miles) west of Shawnee. The coordinates for Channel 299C1 at Shawnee are 39–09–06 North Latitude and 95–09–28 West Longitude. Petitioner contends that the proposal does not require a *Tuck* analysis because the proposal would move the station from one urbanized area to another, but the petition nonetheless contains a *Tuck* analysis to establish that Shawnee deserves a first local service preference.

The Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding. Members of the public should note that from the time a Notice

of Proposed Rule Making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments. See 47 CFR 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible *ex parte* contacts.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, see 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio, Radio broadcasting.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communications Commission proposes to amend 47 CFR Part 73 as follows:

PART 73—RADIO BROADCAST SERVICES

1. The authority citation for Part 73 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 47 U.S.C. 154, 303, 334 and 336.

§ 73.202 [Amended]

2. Section 73.202(b), the Table of FM Allotments under Florida, is amended by removing Apopka, Channel 237A and by adding Maitland, Channel 237C3.

3. Section 73.202(b), the Table of FM Allotments under Kansas, is amended by removing Channel 299C at Topeka and by adding Shawnee, Channel 299C1.

4. Section 73.202(b), the Table of FM Allotments under Washington, is amended by adding Basin City, Channel 248C2 and by removing Othello, Channel 248C3.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Assistant Chief, Audio Division, Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 03–3952 Filed 2–18–03; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[DA 03–273; MB Docket No. 03–29, RM–10643; MB Docket No. 03–30, RM–10644]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Muldrow, OK and Trona, CA

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document proposes two allotments in Muldrow, Oklahoma and Trona, California. The Commission requests comment on a petition filed by