



# WASHINGTON REPORT

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## NEW "INSTRUCTIONAL TV FIXED SERVICE" (2000 mc) ESTABLISHED

On July 25, the FCC, by Report & Order, established a new "Instructional TV Fixed Service" to promote ETV by using channels in the 2500-2690 mc band to transmit instructional and cultural material to schools and other selected receiver locations. It will enable a central transmitter to serve scattered local schools and other reception points which, in turn, will convert the transmissions for viewing on conventional receivers in those places. The 31 channels provided will permit sending different subjects simultaneously. As the FCC explains, "The primary purpose of the new service is to provide for the licensing of transmitting facilities to send visual and accompanying aural instructional material to selected receiving locations in accredited public and private schools, colleges, and universities for the formal education of students."

Systems licensed for this purpose may also be used for other incidental purposes, such as transmission of cultural material, special training material, and special material to professional groups or individuals. They may also be used for administrative purposes, and to relay material to and from commercial and noncommercial TV stations, but not to interconnect TV fixed systems in different areas, or to establish relay systems to cover an entire state or large portion thereof.

As a result of NAEB urging, eligibility in the IIV Fixed Service is identical with that of the noncommercial educational TV broadcast service. Ten watts is considered to be the nominal amount of power needed, but higher powers may be authorized in special cases. The new rules are being made effective Sept. 9 to enable school systems to plan making use of this auxiliary service and for manufacturers to begin development of the equipment needed.

## FM FREEZE LIFTED

On July 25, the FCC adopted a table assigning the 80 commercial FM channels to states and communities, and lifted (except for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands) the freeze on applications for new commercial FM stations or channel changes which was imposed last Dec. Channel assignments in the table (including those to existing stations) total approximately 2,830, in 1,858 communities in the 48 conterminous states. All new assignments conform to a table of minimum co-channel and adjacent channel mileage separations which was adopted by the Commission July 25, 1962. New rules which accompany the table of assignments and are effective Sept. 11 are generally the same as those pertaining to the TV assignment table.

Further rule making is promised with regard to future assignments on the 20 educational FM channels (and also as to future assignments in Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands). Pending these further proceedings educational assignments will continue to be made under existing provisions. Applications for new or changed facilities on the top three educational channels (218, 219, & 220) must still comply with the minimum mileage separations and other requirements with respect

to the lower three commercial channels (221, 222 & 223).

#### FCC RESERVES NEW CHANNELS FOR ETV

On July 30, the FCC reserved 10 new channels for ETV, proposed 10 additional reservations, and deferred action on two others. Those reserved were: Atlanta, Ga. - moved Ch. 57 from Marietta and reserved it; Ogden, Utah - removed reservation from Ch. 24, and reserved Ch. 9 (KOET, Ogden City Bd. of Ed. already in operation); Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands - reserved eight channels as listed in Washington Report, Vol. IV, No. 8, at time of request.

The Commission proposed reservation of the following: San Francisco - Okaland - reserved Ch. 38; Chattanooga - reserved Ch. 14; Athens, Tenn. - added & reserved Ch. 47; Sacramento - proposed two alternatives in response to petition, allocated Ch. 19 and reserved either Ch. 19 or Ch. 46; Atlantic City - reserved Ch. 52; Watsonville, Calif. - reserved Ch. 22; Santa Barbara - reserved Ch. 20; Keene, N.H. - reserved Ch. 45; Littleton, N.H. - reserved Ch. 24; Waycross, Ga. - reserved Ch. 8 (WXGA, Ga. State Bd. of Ed., Atlanta, already in operation).

The Commission also announced that the proposals for reservations at Montclair and Trenton, N.J., were not in harmony with Docket #14229, and action on these will take place later.

Previously, on July 10, the FCC reserved Ch. 17 as second ETV channel in Minneapolis-St. Paul, upon petition by Twin City Area ETV Corp. (KTCA-TV).

#### ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS FOR ETV GRANTS

HEW reports that six more applications for matching-fund grants under the ETV Facilities Act have been received (as of July 13 - the first six were reported in Washington Report, Vol. IV, No. 9): School Dist. #1, City & County of Denver, to expand facilities of KRMA-TV - \$78,251; Greater Washington ETV Assoc., to expand facilities of WETA-TV - \$200,485; Utah State U. (Logan), for new ETV station operating on Ch. 12 - \$143,908; Milwaukee Bd. of Adult and Voc. Ed., to expand facilities of WMVT-TV - \$223,300; Regents of U. of N. M. and Bd. of Ed. of Albuquerque, to expand facilities of KNME-TV - \$431,848; Duluth-Superior Area ETV Corp., for new ETV station operating on Ch. 8 - \$482,450.

#### EMERGENCY BROADCAST SYSTEM REVISED

A revised plan for broadcast station operation during emergency conditions becomes effective August 5. AM, FM and TV (Aural) facilities holding National Defense Emergency Authorizations will continue on the air, after notification of an emergency, on their regularly assigned frequencies, since the CONELRAD plan for using 640 and 1240 kc is no longer deemed necessary by the military. Immediate upon the receipt of a national alert, all AM, FM and TV stations will discontinue normal program transmission and make certain prescribed announcements. Those not in the Emergency Broadcast System will advise listeners or viewers to tune in area AM stations in the system, then go silent.

#### LOGGING AND OPERATOR RULES AMENDED

On July 10, the FCC amended its technical logging and operator rules to exempt noncommercial educational FM stations operating with transmitter power of 10 w or less from the requirement for a five-day-per-week inspection of transmitting equipment. The rules were further changed, effective Aug. 19, to permit AM stations with power of 10 kw or less (& nondirectional antenna) and FM stations with power output of 25 kw or less to employ under certain conditions a supervisory engineer holding a 1st class license on a contract basis (rather than full-time).

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