



LINE OF SIGHT

The Monthly Newsletter of the WTFDA | Dxers News and Information

THERE WAS AN F2 OPENING ON TV?

February 2026 #16

NEW MEMBERS. During the month of January we had three new members and they are Jeroen Bet (Seattle WA), Matthew Doan (Pawling, OH) and Dana Shtun (Toronto, ON). Welcome to all of you!

F2? In this issue we have Nick Langan's article in Radio World about the F2 event on the evening of January 20. This article includes audio from Jim Thomas and both audio and video from Andrew Knafeh. Once again, Nick did a great job with the topic!

Which leads me to ponder, what happens another 20 years down the line when somebody searches for F2 or some unique propagation form and only has Discord, Slack or Facebook to search from? This most recent event had people searching VUDs from 2002 and earlier for info on F2 and only got results because somebody back then thought enough about the topic to post their catches in the VUD. The only reason that this month's F2 made it into this newsletter is because one person (Jim Thomas) thought enough to alert the BoD to it, and for board member Nick Langan to write about it, so that this F2 event will not disappear in the dustbin of TV/FM DX history. Some Dxers receive some really unique DX but outside of a very few DXers, nobody will even know about it, when everyone should. Newer Dxers need to know about rarer forms of propagation, when they occur and how they occur. They won't know if they can't read about it, which is why the VUD archives are so important. And so, for posterity, here are the logs from the WLogger:

F2 DX JANUARY 20, WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING...

2026-01-21 04:59 F2 4/None YNFA-304 MANAGUA, NICARAGUA de Andrew Knafeh (K8EL) (Norton, Ohio)
2026-01-21 04:34 F2 2/None YNFA-302 MANAGUA, NICARAGUA Mentions of "Canal Dos" & "Multinoticias" de Andrew Knafeh (K8EL) (Norton, Ohio)
2026-01-21 04:20 F2 3/None YNFA-303 ESTELI, NCG 3z // YNFA302. Not Matagalpa (which is // YNFA304), so must be this xmtr., NEW.
Hepburn ON
2026-01-21 04:15 F2 4/4 YNFA304 MANAGUA, NCG 2190 miles, SS baseball, ad with Nicaragua website. Best video yet! No audio at all. New mode. Hepburn ON
2026-01-21 04:06 F2 2/2 YNFA302 MANAGUA, NCG 2189 miles, 2- SS, Noticias for Nicaragua, new mode. Hepburn ON
2026-01-21 04:03 F2 2/None 5JA-5188 RIOHACHA, COLOMBIA RCN logo clearly visible de Andrew Knafeh (K8EL) (Norton, Ohio)
2026-01-21 02:48 F2 2/2 YVVA-TV CARACAS, VEN 2381 miles. Assumed w/female singer. (doesn't match CLM streams). I've already had YVVA via F2 (back in 2001). Hepburn (ON)
2026-01-21 02:31 F2 4/4 UNID ,. Station w/no audio. Text message on screen. Likely an analog station that has switched to DTV. Hepburn ON
2026-01-21 01:56 F2 2/2 5JA-5188 RIOHACHA, CLM 2249 miles, // RCN stream, new mode. Hepburn ON
2026-01-21 01:55 F2 3/3 YVVE-TV BARQUISIMETO, VEN 2376 miles, TVES promo, new mode. Hepburn ON

Is there a certain time of day for F2 DX? Probably not. There were **two** days (1/3 and 1/4) in January of 2001 on a weekend, where the TEP began around 8:30am EST and continued to around 11am. In my case I had heavy CCI and garbage on ch2 as in Andrew's videos. For those who just watched this event on the logger but didn't notice anything, consider yourselves very fortunate since this might be the last time propagation like this gets noticed, because when it does happen again, all TV will be digital and nobody will ever know.

THE CONTEST. We heard back from the winner of the Airspy HF+ Discovery. Mark Bailey wrote: "**Thank you very much!** I have a good friend here locally, and a long-time DXer and SDR expert, who will help me set up an antenna. Looking forward to using the Airspy and will let you know how it goes."

A solar storm heated up the airwaves for North American long-distance signal hobbyists

BY NICK LANGAN •

For VHF FM radio and TV long-distance signal reception enthusiasts, or DXers, the wintertime doldrums are often real.

Cold temperatures and dry air masses, as we've covered previously, often do not support tropospheric propagation. In the northern hemisphere, there is a winter E-Skip cycle, and there was some associated activity with it across North America earlier in January, but it's much less intense compared to the summer. Typically, by late January, chances for skip dry up.

From here on out, unless you live in a spot particularly hospitable for meteor scatter, it's possible you might not see another DXable opportunity until April or May.

But for some DXers, the evening of Jan. 20 proved particularly special.

On that day, there was a strong geomagnetic storm — as our sister site Space.com chronicled, [a class G4 Aurora event](#). While an Auroral event itself is known to produce "hashy" propagation on VHF frequencies, typically involving signals from the north, the exact impact on broadcast bands can be unpredictable.

Jim Thomas, now 70, told us he has been DXing the band since he was 15. Today, Thomas lives in Springfield, Mo., and is an avid FM and TV DXer and member of the [Worldwide TV & FM DXing Association](#).

He began the evening of the 20th with his antennas aimed north, seeking Auroral signals. He sought a beacon such as CITO(TV) in Timmins, Ontario, on 65.76 MHz. But Thomas found no indicators of Auroral propagation on his band.

Meanwhile, [Bill Hepburn](#), located in southwestern Ontario, reported receiving low-VHF TV signals from the far distant south — counterintuitive to standard Auroral DX.

First, Hepburn confirmed TV Venezuela signals on Channel 3, and then RCN Colombia signals on Channel 2 — both at distances over 2,200 miles. Later, he would receive signals from Nicaragua on Channels 2, 3 and 4.

He posted the logs to the WTFDA's [WLogger propagation bulletin board](#). Based on the direction — south — and the style of signals observed, more stable than typical E-Skip, posters began to suspect it was F2-based propagation. Hepburn noted a similar event in 2001, [the last time he observed F2 in the TV bands](#).

Thomas, meanwhile, was using SDR Console software to watch the band. At about 10:15 p.m. Central Time, he observed a weak carrier on the SDR's spectrum view on 65.75 MHz, the audio carrier for TV Channel 3. He listened with earbuds and could tell the audio was in Spanish. Soon after, he noted the same on Channels 2 and 4. ([You can listen to Jim's audio here](#).)

At first, Thomas suspected Cuba, which is a frequent E-Skip-based reception area. But checking Cubavision's schedule, it showed a drama, whereas Thomas was hearing opera-style music.

Thomas recorded the audio and sent it to Raymie Humbert, a bilingual DXer considered an authority on DX from Mexico and Latin America. Humbert confirmed the identification of the RCN Colombia network.

"This is the first time I have ever experienced F2 TV DX," Thomas told us. "It was really strange to hear, but also exciting."

DXer Andrew Knafl (K8EL), near Akron, Ohio, also posted excellent clips to his X account of the signals he captured on his TV set. Here is how RCN from Colombia looked on TV Channel 2 for Knafl:



Higher up in the band, on Channel 4, is a signal he captured from Managua, Nicaragua, at about 2,000 miles.

What is F2, anyway?

How does a DXer aiming for Canada end up catching Colombia during a geomagnetic storm?

We aren't 100% certain. It is not a given this was standard F2; it is still possible this was Auroral-influenced E-Skip set off by the geomagnetic storm. However, the stability and distance point toward F2.

First, a short primer on F2 reception. An article by J.R. Kennedy (K6MIO) [describes F2 as the “holy grail” of VHF DXing](#). It relies on the ionosphere's highest layer to reflect signals over long distances. It is highly dependent on the solar cycle — and [we are in a maximum right now](#). There is also a peculiarity in the F2 layer not found in the other layers, Kennedy notes, called the “winter anomaly.”

“The central message in all of this is that, on average, F2 propagation between points on the same side of the equator will be much better in the local winter and near solar maximum,” Kennedy wrote.

Under normal conditions, Trans-Equatorial Propagation (TEP) allows signals to cross the equator. This is quite rare, particularly for DXers at Hepburn and Knafl's latitudes.

But some research, including a study by [Elvira Astafyeva and five other authors](#) presented at the American Geophysical Union Conference in 2024, indicates that during severe geomagnetic storms, such as the one on Jan. 20, a phenomenon called the “Super Fountain” occurs. The study describes it as an “uplift” of the crests that sit north and south of the magnetic equator, much farther poleward than usual.

Astafyeva linked the observations to a large coronal mass ejection that arrived at Earth on May 10, 2024.

“We note that, while the dayside ionospheric effects at low and mid-latitudes during the May 2024 storm are impressive, they yet seem to be more modest than that observed during the October 2003 geomagnetic superstorm,” the authors wrote.

Incidentally, during that October 2003 event, [according to the WTFDA VUD archives](#), two DXers in Texas and Louisiana tentatively had a program match to KHON(TV) in Honolulu, while DXer Mike Cherry in British

Columbia confirmed KHON, the first time in then 35 years of DXing that Cherry had logged Honolulu outside of the summer E-Skip season.

South Korea in SoCal

One of the most prolific F2 DXers was the late Gordon Simkin.

He [penned multiple columns](#) for the WTFDA's VHF/UHF Digest back in 2003 and 2004 regarding his experiences with F2 propagation in the 1950s.

Writing about his time as a research assistant at Loma Linda University in California in 1957, he recounted using a Heathkit FM-3A tuner with a converter to tune the 40–60 MHz band. South Korea was using the 42–48 MHz band for FM broadcasts in those days.

While recording a station, he captured an ID in English. “It was quite a delight to discover that I was receiving Seoul, South Korea!” Simkin wrote. He believed its call letters were HLKA, and it was around 45 MHz.

This may be the most distant FM broadcast signal ever logged at approximately 5,000 miles.

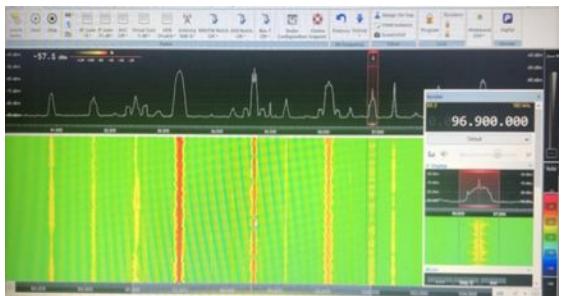
He had several receptions of BBC audio from Loma Linda, reaching frequencies as high as 52.4 MHz in what he described as the “most extreme day for F2” he ever experienced — likely Nov. 20, 1959. Glenn Hauser wrote of this in his DX Listening Digest in 2002.

“Legendary DXer Gordon Simkin who lived in Loma Linda, Calif., managed to catch MUF as high as 53.75 MHz to the BBC in UK — rather phenomenal, as well as a French station operating with a video carrier frequency of 52.4 MHz (at that time),” Hauser wrote.

In general, the maximum usable frequency in F2 events is limited typically to about the six-meter amateur radio band (50–54 MHz), making the Channel 4 reports from Jan. 20 highly unusual.

Was it the Auroral link?

For DXers like Thomas, Hepburn and Knafel, it made for a very mysterious and memorable event, regardless.



Format Flips

and branding, too

John Zondlo - fmdxweb@cox.net

February 2026

AZ

K235CB Chandler AZ has switched to Adult Alternative “94.9 The Zone” from Oldies “The Wow Factor.” The station rebroadcasts KZON HD2 103.9 Gilbert AZ. Wow!

AR

John Brown University, in lovely Siloam Springs AR, continues it's buying spree with the \$290k purchase of Rock KFPW 94.5 Barling AR (Fort Smith market). It'll join their growing network of Christian AC stations which includes KLRC 90.9 Tahlequah OK and KLAB 101.1 Siloam Springs.

Religious programming is on the air now for KAWX-LP 93.1 Mena AR. Interesting little town, Mena. It's at the eastern end of the Talimena Scenic Drive from Talihina OK to Mena AR. The Drive can be spectacular in the late fall for the vibrant colors.

CA

KMVE 106.9 California City CA is back on the air with Country as “106.9 FM.” It takes over the format from KTPI 97.7 Mojave, which is being sold to EMF. Did you know that in area, California City is the third largest city in California? Travel influencers Bethany and Drew of YouTube's Oddity Odysseys did a whole episode on that.

FL

“Caracol America 106.3” is the new branding for WRAZ Leisure City FL. Programming comes from both Colombia and the United States. It can also be heard on W292GE Miami. It previously was “Salsa 106.3.”

WPAV-LP 97.7 is on in Belleview FL with Spanish Religious programming, with the branding “Bethel Radio.”

LPFMs are great for niche programming, and such is the case for the reggae-formatted WBSI-LP 99.3 Port St. Lucie FL. It's on the air now and DX-ready.

IL

Peoria has a new vibe. It's WVBP 1350 Tremont IL and translators W225DC 92.9 and W298BH, both licensed to Peoria. The stations are running an Adult R&B format as “92.9/107.5 The Vibe.”

IN

So sad to see so many AM station license holders turn in their license. More than 50 stations gave up the ghost last year. Midwest Communications' WIBQ 1230 Terre Haute has bit the dust. Its translator, W250BZ Terre Haute, has flipped from Conservative Talk to 60's/70's Oldies as “Superhits 97.9,” fed by WTHI HD2 99.9 Terre Haute. Even having a translator doesn't guarantee an AM station can afford to stay on the air.

LA

Almost 3 years after switching to Classic Country, KSIG 1450/K236CW Crowley LA is going back to Soft AC as “Sunny 95.1” The positioning statement changes, too, to “Relaxing Lite Favorites with the Variety You Crave.”

New to the airwaves is WAKN-LP 94.7 Monroe LA. They air Spanish Christian programming as "Radio Compasion."

MI

The Classic Hits format on WCCW 107.5 Traverse City MI is now branded as "Good Vibes 107.5." Their positioning statement is "Up North Feel Good Radio." Gone is the '70's music on the station, with the emphasis now on the '80s and '90's. I'm sure any good vibes feel good after a long winter in Traverse City.



What can you do with a floundering AM station? Well, fortunately they have a FM translator. WQYQ 1400 and translator W291DK 106.1, both in St. Joseph MI, have joined with the Visit Southwest Michigan tourism bureau to present "Visit Southwest Michigan Radio." It's a blend of what they call "feel good music" and feature stories on the attractions and people in the area. St. Joe and its twin city, Benton Harbor, could sure use an economic boost from tourism.

MO

Soft Adult Contemporary is out at "98.7 The Cove" K254BE 98.7 Osage Beach MO. The station, fed by KRMS-HD4 93.5 Osage Beach, is now "Fox Sports 98.7." They'll be running Kansas City Royals baseball this season. The Royals start spring training this month in Peoria AZ.

KDHX 88.1 is no more in St. Louis. Gateway Creative outbid EMF for the station and has planted KLJT there with a worship format known as "Worship One." Nice to have a local group running the station instead of a national brand.

NE

The Tri-Cities of Nebraska has a new CCM station, and it's not another K-Love outlet. K259CZ 99.7 Grand Island is now "Jett FM," fed by KRGJ-HD3 96.5 Grand Island. The translator had been rebroadcasting Rock KMTY 97.7 Gibbon NE.

NM

I really like New Mexico. My wife graduated from high school in Hobbs, and I produced the New Mexico State Aggie sports network for a couple years. So it's nice to hear some radio news from there, as Hot AC "Magic 104.9" KMVR Mesilla Park has flipped to Rock as "Rock 104.9." How enchanting!

NC

Shallotte NC has a new Contemporary Christian station. It's WVBS-LP 102.1. It goes by "Faith and Love Radio."

OH

In the Buckeye state, W225CM 92.9 Delaware and W225CS 92.9 Columbus are now Classic Rock as "93X." They're fed by WVXG 95.1 Mount Gilead OH, which is "95X."

OK

Not many yachts try to navigate the Neosho River thru Miami OK. Nonetheless, KGLC 100.9 Miami has flipped from AC to Yacht Rock-focused Classic Hits as "100.9 The Island." Maybe the folks on

nearby Grand Lake O' the Cherokees will like it. And remember, it's not Miami like the university in Ohio. It's My-am-uh, and they're mighty proud of it.

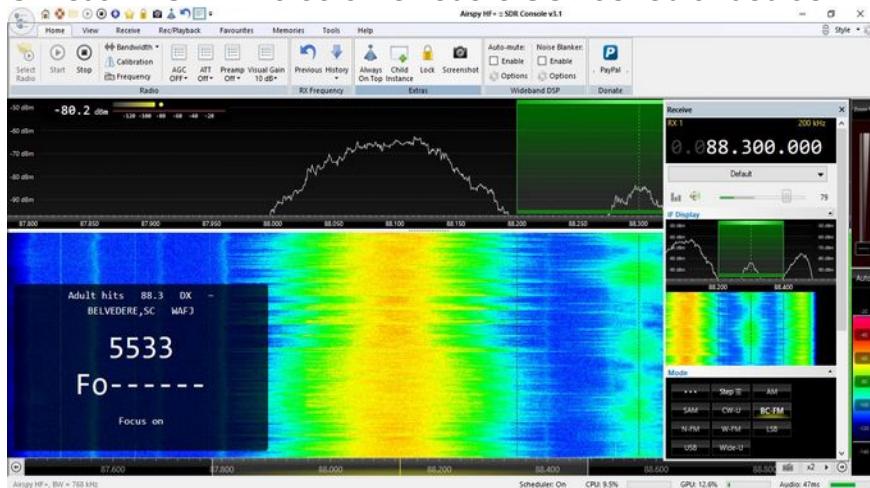
ON

In the Toronto market, CHR CIDC 103.5 Orangeville is playing a bit more Dance music these days. "Z103.5" is positioning itself as "Feel The Beat," and emphasizing more dance and European music. It's not uncommon to hear it here in the OKC area, as its HD signal easily overcomes my local on that frequency.



SC

Christian AC WAFJ 88.3 Belvedere SC has rebranded as "The Joy FM."



TX

Down in San Antonio, KJXK 102.7 has gone from "Jack FM" to "Bob FM." It's still Variety Hits. Before making the change, the station stunted with the lilting Cisco on hold music. I bet some of the listeners there must be having mental issues after hearing that for a week.

College Station TX now has a college station. KAGZ-LP 106.7 is on the air with Variety Programming from the students at Texas A&M University. Gig 'em, Aggies!

In the metro area with perhaps the greatest concentration of LPFM stations, KFTW-LP 99.9 Fort Worth has added to the congestion on the FM dial. The format is Spanish Religious programming as "Bethel Radio."

VT

How about a couple changes in Brattleboro VT? Seasons Media is shaking things up there, mellowing Hot AC WTSA-FM 96.7 to an Adult Contemporary format as "Magic 96.7." And W258DW 99.5 is getting a radical change, going from Rock to Country as "Country 99.5." The translator is fed by WTSA-AM 1450.



VA

In Stafford VA, WSAY-LP 97.9 is now on the air as "AfroWaves Radio." Their description of the format is "a carefully curated playlist of the hottest Afrobeats and your favorite African classics."

WY

The Casper market has a new Classic Country station. It's KMXW 92.5 Bar Nunn WY, which has gone from Adult CHR as "Max 92.5" to the new format as "92.5 Hank FM." The station positions itself as "Wyoming's Real Country."

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Sources: Indianaradio.net, Northpine, RadioInsight, Hisair.net, LPFM Database, IRCA's DX Monitor, InsideRadio, RadioInk, and radio biz connections

Tek Talk Bill Hohnstein

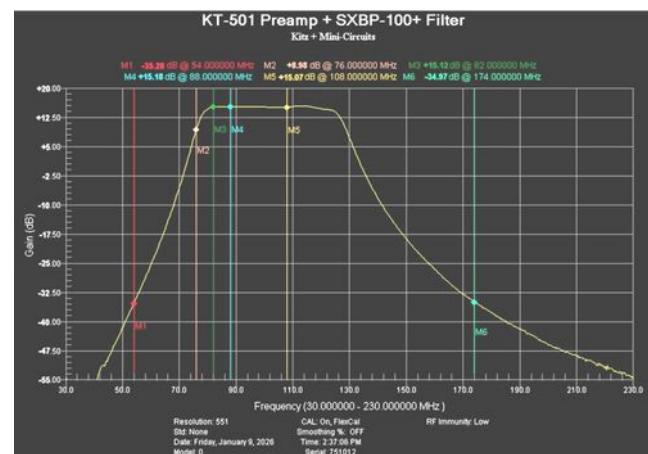


The Kitz KT-501-COAX is a great preamplifier. It just has one major problem—it is too large!

I decided to correct that problem and add some of my enhancements. I used a KT-501 and added my own DC isolation components so that it is powered via the coax feeding it. I removed the circuit board from its supplied case and mounted it in a waterproof Hammond 1590WB case. That case is a bit larger to permit the addition of an RF filter. I removed the gain control and mounted a trimmer resistor in its place on the opposite side of the circuit board. It can be adjusted by using a screwdriver after removing the back of its new case.

I wanted to add a filter to pass the FM broadcast frequencies, plus TV channel 6 if possible. I thought that the Mini-Circuits SXBP-100+ filter seemed like an easy way to do that. That is an SMD module. See: [SXBP-100+.pdf](#) A ferrite bead was added across the filter's input to prevent a static voltage buildup. While I could have used the removed input F-connector from the KT-501, it seemed easier to instead use an extra F-jack with coax attached that I already had. This all added up to the following:

While the KT-501 had around 18 dB maximum gain on the FM frequencies, I turned the gain down to about 15 dB. The frequency response of the completed package is shown:



TV News

January 2026
D. Smith

St	City	Call	Ch (VC)	Notes
AL	Auburn	W36EO	36 (36)	Moved from La Grange, Ga.; 15kw/104m, 32-30-43/85-35-15.
AL	Birmingham	W32FJ	13 (31)	Requests move from ch. 32, 2.69kw/215m, 33-23-51/86-39-41 Amendment to change new channel from 8 and reduce new power from 3kw.
AL	Montgomery	W13DT	24 (13)	Requests move from ch. 13, 15kw/176m, 32-22-04/86-15-42. (WAKA ch. 8 studios)
AL	Tuscaloosa	WDVZ-CD	3 (3)	OFF Jan. 11 th , lost tower lease.
AR	Fort Smith	KQRY-LD	25 (36)	Proposes facilities swap with KFDF-CD; city from Lowell.
AR	Hot Springs	K23OW	23 (39)	Returned to the air Jan. 12 th .
AR	Siloam Springs	KSJF-CD	19 (34)	Proposes facilities swap with KWFT-LD; city from Fort Smith.
AR	Siloam Springs	KWFT-LD	22 (30)	Proposes facilities swap with KSJF-CD.
AR	Springdale	KFDF-CD	34 (25)	Proposes facilities swap with KQRY-LD; city from Fort Smith.
AR	Texarkana	KLFI-CD	35 (35)	Granted power increase to 11kw.
AZ	El Centro	K17LM	19 (17)	Requests move from Yuma, 15kw/62m, 32-43-37/115-22-23; amendment to change city from Mexicali. Should probably be El Centro, California.
AZ	Tucson	KUAS-TV	28 (27)	Requests STA for unspecified reduced power due to transmitter issues.
CA	Auburn	K07AAO	7 (15)	Request to move from K05NL Reno, Nev. withdrawn.
CA	Auburn	KCNL-LD	28 (3)	Request to move from ch. 3 Reno, Nev. withdrawn.
CA	Chico	K29OI	7 (51)	Requests move from ch. 29, 1kw/352m, 39-57-29/121-42-53.
CA	Chico	KKRM-LD	11 (11)	Requests power reduction to 1.75kw; granted.
CA	Chico	K35OZ	35 (40)	Requests power increase to 15kw/322m; granted.
CA	Cloverdale	KQSL & KQSL-DRT	23 (8)	Application for new Digital Replacement Translator dismissed. Requests power reduction for Fort Bragg DTS site #2 to 1.2kw/703m. Application says they expect to apply for additional DTS sites.
CA	Clovis	K02QP	13 (45)	Requests move from ch. 2 Chowchilla.
CA	Colusa	KEDS	14	Proposes assignment of new channel & move from ch. 2, 250kw/656m.
CA	Cupertino	NEW	2	Proposes assignment of new channel, but already dismissed. See below.
CA	Eureka	K16JJ	16 (16)	Requests power increase to 15kw/-31m.
CA	Fort Bragg	KEDB	4 (6)	Requests conversion to DTS by adding second

St	City	Call	Ch (VC)	Notes
CA	Lodi	KZHD-LD	4 (52)	transmitter, 200w/554m, 38-45-44/122-50-28. Requests move from ch. 22 Rohnert Park, 1.5kw/218m, 38-14-24/121-30-07.
CA	Monterey	K09AAF	9 (9)	Returned to the air Jan. 7 th .
CA	Nicolaus	KKPM-CD	28 (28)	Requests power reduction from 15kw/653m to 14.2kw/147m, 38-38-53/121-28-41; from Yuba City; amendment from 15kw to prevent interference to KPYX and KCNL-LD.
CA	Petaluma	KFMY-LD	6 (15)	Requests power increase to 2.5kw/665m.
CA	Pomona	KMRZ-LD	26 (16)	Requests power reduction to 10.2kw/19m, 34-08-33/117-43-20.
CA	Redding	K16IW	16 (16)	Requests power increase to 15kw/430m.
CA	Sacramento	KYUB-LD	7 (15)	Requests move from ch. 15 Yuba City. Amended to 1.6kw/158m.
CA	Sacramento	KRJR-LD	29 (44)	Requested move from ch. 12 withdrawn, will refile for different channel.
CA	Santa Clara	LSR	4	Requests STA, 5w/-33m, 37-24-12/121-58-21; Levi's Stadium, 1/25/26 – 2/8/26 (Super Bowl) Granted.
CA	Stockton	KUKR-LD	7 (27)	Requests move from ch. 26 Santa Rosa, 1.1kw/221m, 38-14-24/121-30-07. See KZHD-LD Lodi.
CA	Tulare	KEDZ	24	Proposes assignment of new channel & move from ch. 3, 100kw/823m.
CA	Yuba City	K15FJ	16 (15)	Requests move from ch. 15 Lakeport, 1kw/597m, 39-12-19/121-49-14. New channel amended from 17.
CO	Colorado Springs	KRDO-TV	24 (13)	Operating at about 50% power since Dec. 25th due to exciter and amplifier failure. Returned to full power Jan. 14th.
CO	Salida	K31IX	31 (8)	Returned to the air Jan. 15 th .
CO	Steamboat Springs	KRMZ	10 (24)	Sold to Syncrom Media Group. (Denver LPTVs KHDT-LD, KXDP-LD, KLPD-LD, and KZDN-LD)
CT	Danbury	WXGN-LD	27 (27)	OFF since Dec. 23 rd ; returned to the air Jan. 22 nd .
CT	Hartford	WVMA-CD	29 (17)	Requests move from ch. 23 Providence RI, 10kw/164m, 41-41-00/72-12-55.
FL	Gainesville	WOCD-LD	13 (27)	Requests move from ch. 27 Ocala, but withdrawn.
FL	Gainesville	WOCD-LD	18 (27)	Requests move from ch. 27 Ocala, 15kw/90m, 29-44-24/82-23-12; amendment from ch. 13.
FL	Miami	LSR	3	Requests STA, 5w/20m, 25-57-27/80-14-21; Hard Rock Stadium, 1/19/26 (College Football National Championship) Granted.
FL	Panama City	WIDM-LD	19 (19)	Requests power increase to 15kw/125m, 30-30-43/85-29-17.
FL	Panama City	W17EM	21 (17)	Requests move from ch. 17, 15kw/200m, 30-34-26/84-12-13.
FL	Panama City	W25FK	25 (16)	Returned to the air Jan. 26 th .

St	City	Call	Ch (VC)	Notes
FL	Pensacola	WCTU-LD	22 (46)	Returned to the air Jan. 25 th .
FL	Pensacola	W27EO	26 (4)	Requests move from ch. 27 Panama City, 15kw/158m, 30-24-13/86-59-34.
FL	Sarasota	WSNN-LD	26 (39)	Tower height increased to 162m (from 158m)
FL	Tallahassee	W14EU	7 (20)	Requests move from ch. 14, 3kw/129m, 30-29-33/84-17-13.
FL	Tallahassee	W29FN	11 (29)	Requests move from ch. 29 Panama City, 3kw/208m, 30-21-32/84-36-38.
FL	Tallahassee	W25FK	17 (16)	Requests move from ch. 25 Panama City; amendment to add channel change.
FL	Tallahassee	W21EL	31 (21)	Requests move from ch. 21 Valdosta, Ga.
FL	Vero Beach	WWCI-CD	10 (10)	Returned to the air Jan. 6 th .
GA	Atlanta	WUVM-LD	2 (4)	Operating at 19% power due to antenna/feedline issue. Has filed to move to ch. 15.
GA	Montrose	W34FX	34 (34)	Returned to the air Dec. 26 th .
GU	Hagatna	KGTF	12 (12)	OFF Jan. 21st, transmitter issues. (GU is Guam)
HI	Hilo	KXHI	23 (14)	Returned to the air Oct. 1st.
HI	Lihue	K32IX	32 (32)	Returned to the air Dec. 31 st .
IA	Sioux City	K31PP	23 (31)	Requests move from ch. 31, 15kw/-4m, 42-32-05/96-22-23. (site change is negligible)
ID	Idaho Falls	K08QX	8 (8)	Requests move from ch. 21 Pocatello, 3kw/462m.
ID	Pocatello	K16NQ	24 (16)	Requests move from ch. 16, 15kw/259m.
IL	Saulsbury	W27DF	34 (18)	Requests move from ch. 27 Quincy, 15kw/73m, 39-44-22/90-02-43.
IN	Corydon	W19EW	19 (19)	Requests move from Evansville, 15kw/124m, 38-14-00/86-22-46.
IN	Corydon	W10DG	27 (10)	Requests move from ch. 32 Evansville, 15kw/124m, 38-14-00/86-22-46.
IN	Gary	WYIN	17 (56)	Station had permit to install a new antenna and increase power. Requests modification to allow operation of new antenna at old power. (300kw)
IN	Toledo	WODP-LD	15 (49)	Requests move from ch. 36 Fort Wayne, Ind.. See below.
KS	Kansas City	K22OA	20 (40)	Requests move from ch. 22 Topeka.
KS	Kansas City	K23LE	27 (23)	Requests move from ch. 23 Sedalia, Mo.; amendment to increase power to 5.25kw.
KY	Ashland	WKAS	36 (25)	Operating at approximately 30% power since Dec. 28th due to transmission line damage. Returned to full power Jan. 21st.
LA	Alexandria	K22OW	22 (22)	Requests power reduction from 10kw/439m to 15kw/124m.
LA	Columbia	K12XQ	34 (8)	Requests move from ch. 21 Monroe.
LA	Monroe	KLTM-TV	13 (13)	Requests STA for reduced power of 9.7kw/421m, temporary antenna during work to move to ch. 29.
LA	Monroe	KLTM-TV	29 (13)	Requests move from ch. 13, 331kw/545m; amendment from 1000kw.
LA	Monroe	KLTM-TV	29 (13)	Requests STA to move to new channel 29 at 33.1% of authorized power pending funding for an

St	City	Call	Ch (VC)	Notes
LA	New Orleans	WTNO-CD	22 (22)	additional amplifier cabinet. Requests STA Jan. 23 rd for reduced power of 8.25kw (55%) due to amplifier issues.
LA	Shreveport	K36MU	31 (36)	Requests move from ch. 36 Texarkana, Ark.
MA	Boston	WJCB-LD	3 (21)	Requests move from ch. 30 Windsor, Vt., 3kw/113m, 42-00-38/71-02-40.
MA	Boston	WCRN-LD	30 (13)	Requests STA to operate a "5G transmission system".
MA	Norwell	WWDP	10 (46)	Surrendered permit to move to ch. 36; will remain on channel 10.
ME	Portland	WFYW-LD	22 (41)	Requests move from ch. 35, 15kw/352m, 43-51-30/70-42-39; from Fairfield.
MI	Petoskey	W28DY	28 (28)	Requests move from Sault Ste. Marie, 12kw/289m, 45-30-05/85-01-49; amendment to add city change.
MI	Pinconning	W31FI	21 (20)	Requests move from ch. 31 Traverse City, 15kw/57m, 43-56-25/83-55-50.
MN	Minneapolis	W11DX	11 (26)	Requests move from W26FG Eau Claire, Wis., 3kw/92m, 44-54-41/92-59-11. Amendment to correct state from Wisconsin.
MO	Fredericktown	K18OF	18 (27)	Requests move from K27OY Memphis, 500w/44m, 37-30-06/90-18-35; amendment to change new city from St. Louis.
MO	New Madrid	KJBW-LD	35 (35)	Requests power increase to 15kw/71m, 36-40-14/89-32-27.
MO	Springfield	K27PR	27 (16)	Requests move from K21JS Harrison, Ark., 15kw/177m, 37-12-17/93-08-23. Amendment to correct state from Illinois.
MS	Biloxi	WXVO-LD	19 (11)	Moved from ch. 13 Pascagoula; 15kw/152m. See New Augusta.
MS	Jackson	WHCQ-LD	9 (8)	Requests move from ch. 26 Cleveland, Miss.
MS	Jackson	W33FA	33 (19)	Requests move from W19EF Greenville, 15kw/157m, 32-39-28/90-30-27. Amendment to correct city from Jacksonville.
MS	New Augusta	WXVO-LD	36 (11)	Requests move from ch. 19 Biloxi, 15kw/319m, 30-45-19/88-56-44
MS	Tupelo	W14EQ	19 (40)	Requests move from ch. 14, 15kw/44m, 34-09-21/88-38-34.
MT	Great Falls	KRTV	7 (3)	Requests STA to operate both their old facility on ch. 7 and the new one on ch. 22 simultaneously. K11WK Stanford can't reliably receive ch. 22; this translator feeds others across northern Montana.
MT	Great Falls	KRTV	22 (3)	Requests STA to operate new facility at 522kw/181m. Paperwork filed with wrong antenna height.
MT	Philipsburg	K15KW	16 (11)	Requests move from ch. 15.
MT	Sidney	K13IG	17 (5)	Requests move from ch. 13, 3.35kw/37m, 47-47-26/104-07-20.
NC	Charlotte	W36FG	5 (24)	Requests move from ch. 36 Durham.
NC	Charlotte	W15EB	15 (21)	Operating at reduced power of 7kw/149m since Jan.

St	City	Call	Ch (VC)	Notes
NC	Greenville	W35DW	35 (45)	27 th due to damaged amplifier.
NC	Lumberton	W35EF	31 (17)	OFF Jan. 11 th , Internet connectivity issues.
NE	Lincoln	KUON-TV	27 (12)	Granted move from ch. 12, 680kw/245m.
NH	Westmoreland	WWOO-LD	28 (17)	Requests STA to operate a “5G transmission system”.
NM	Alamogordo	K06QI	6 (6)	Request for power increase to 3kw/496m, 32-49-47/105-53-15 withdrawn.
				Filed by mistake & contains errors; will file new application.
NM	Alamogordo	KAVD	11 (4)	Requests move from ch. 4, 19kw/504m. (change in channel assignment for new station, not yet built)
NM	Las Cruces	K07AAL	9 (34)	Requests move from ch. 7 Orogrande, 3kw/53m, 32-05-05/106-44-06. Amendment to change new channel from 10.
NM	Las Cruces	K14QG	24 (19)	Requests move from ch. 14, 15kw/47m, 32-05-05/106-44-06; from Alamogordo.
NM	Orogrande	K07AAL	7 (34)	Request for power increase to 3kw/494m withdrawn. Filed by mistake & contains errors; will file new application. See Las Cruces.
NM	Ruidoso	K31MW	31 (7)	Returned to the air Dec. 30 th .
NV	Las Vegas	KLVD-LD	8 (23)	Requests move to ch. 8, 3kw/347m; displaced by KHSV-TV which is moving from ch. 2 to ch. 23.
NV	Las Vegas	KEGS-LD	24 (30)	Requests power reduction to 15kw/106m, 36-06-58/115-11-12.
NV	Orovada	K27MF	27 (5)	Requests power reduction to 100w/238m (from 200w), 41-28-28/118-03-31. Granted.
NV	Orovada	K29KJ	29 (2)	Requests power reduction to 100w/238m (from 200w), 41-28-28/118-03-31. Granted.
NV	Orovada	K32KQ	32 (4)	Requests power reduction to 100w/238m (from 200w), 41-28-28/118-03-31. Granted.
NV	Orovada	K34MF	34 (8)	Requests power reduction to 100w/238m (from 200w), 41-28-28/118-03-31. Granted.
NV	Reno	KRXI-TV	23 (11)	OFF Jan. 18th. FOX and NBC programming is airing temporarily on the KRVN transmitter.
NY	Buffalo	WBXZ-LD	23 (56)	OFF Jan. 11 th , transmission line issues.
NY	Smithtown	WFTY-DT	23 (67)	Returned to full power Oct. 1st.
NY	Syracuse	WWLF-LD	21 (35)	Requests move from ch. 35, 15kw/31m.
OH	Cadiz	W26FQ	26 (20)	Requests move from W20DY Roanoke, W.V., 15kw/109m, 40-03-33/81-12-58.
OH	Cadiz	W32GE	32 (28)	Requests move from W20DY Roanoke, W.V., 15kw/109m, 40-03-33/81-12-58.
OH	Portsmouth	WQCW	15 (30)	Operating at 36.5% power since Jan. 9th due to technical issues.
OH	Toledo	WODP-LD	15 (49)	Requests move from ch. 36 Fort Wayne, Ind.; 15kw/73m, 41-36-13/83-54-21. Amendment to correct city from Toledo, Indiana.

St	City	Call	Ch (VC)	Notes
OK	Muskogee	KQCW-DT	20 (19)	Power increased to 700kw/432m, 36-01-15/95-40-32.
OK	Oklahoma City	KUOT-CD	32 (21)	Move from ch. 21 dismissed.
OR	Portland	KBDH-LD	19 (29)	Requests move from ch. 29 Bend, 500w/-63m, 45-10-23/121-05-49; amendment from ch. 17.
OR	Prospect	K02JG	2 (8)	Returned to the air Jan. 5 th .
OR	Salem	K16JS	4 (17)	Requests move from ch. 16 Eugene, 3kw/294m, 44-58-58/123-08-36; amendment to add city change.
OR	The Dalles	K24NO	29 (12)	License canceled Jan. 28 th .
PA	Coopersburg	W24CS	32 (69)	Requests move from ch. 24 Reading, 15kw/318m, 40-33-52/75-26-24.
PA	Harrisburg	W36EY	23 (47)	Requests move from ch. 36 Berwick, 15kw/383m, 40-15-45/76-27-50.
PA	Hazleton	WYLN-CD	27 (35)	Requests move from ch. 26, 15kw/154m, 40-58-10/75-57-23.
PA	Millersburg	W25FE	14 (42)	Requests move from ch. 25 Chambersburg, 15kw/250m, 40-18-56/76-57-08.
PA	New Freedom	W10DE	28 (46)	Requests move from ch. 10 Washington, D.C.; amendment to add channel change & change site. New site is in Jacksonville, Md. north of Baltimore.
PA	Shrewsbury	WRZH-LD	30 (30)	Requests move from ch. 23 Lancaster, 8kw/124m, 39-30-54/76-33-34.
PA	Williamsport	W09DB	32 (5)	Requests move from ch. 9, 15kw/348m, 41-13-08/76-57-26.
PR	Guaynabo	WNVI-LD	3 (3)	OFF Jan. 2 nd , economic issues.
TN	Carthage	WNSH-LD	3 (9)	Requests move from ch. 9 Nashville, 3kw/151m, 36-09-13/86-22-46.
TN	Chattanooga	W26ET	26 (26)	Returned to the air Jan. 26 th .
TN	Memphis	WNBA-LD	7 (34)	Requests move from ch. 34 Clarksdale, Miss. Amendment to change site, to avoid conflict with W21EC application for ch. 8.
TN	Memphis	WBII-CD	20 (20)	Requests move from Holly Springs, Miss.
TN	Murfreesboro	W11DY	11 (26)	Requests move from W26ET Chattanooga, 3kw/76m, 35-55-07/86-15-12. Amendment to add city change.
TN	Nashville	WJNK-LD	12 (34)	Requests move from ch. 34. Returned to the air on old ch. 34 Jan. 26 th .
TX	Anthony	KVBA-LD	19 (19)	Requests move from Alamogordo, N.M.; 15kw/49m, 32-05-05/106-44-06.
TX	Beaumont	KAOB-LD	18 (27)	Requests move from ch. 32, 15kw/398m, 30-13-54/95-07-27. Site is near Splendora, northeast of Houston.
TX	Bryan	K20KJ	20 (28)	Returned to the air Jan. 14 th .
TX	Bryan	KAGS-LD	23 (23)	Granted STA for 50% power due to equipment failure.
TX	College Station	K36LD	36 (36)	Returned to the air Jan. 24 th .
TX	Dallas	K26KC	26 (7)	Returned to the air Jan. 22 nd . Requests move to 15kw/127m, 33-31-38/97-24-55; change city to Gainesville.
TX	Dell City	KWHY-LD	22 (36)	Requests move from ch. 26 Roswell, N.M.; 500w/208m, 31-51-24/104-49-37.
TX	San Antonio	KFLZ-LD	6 (7)	Requests power increase to 1kw/126m.

St	City	Call	Ch (VC)	Notes
				Withdrawn. Filed by mistake & contains errors; will file new application.
TX	San Antonio	KAXX-LD	35 (42)	Requests move to new site; amendment to change new site.
TX	Willis	K28QN	28 (29)	Requests move from Conroe; amendment to change site to 30-22-44/95-31-42.
UT	Salt Lake City	KEJT-CD	21 (50)	Converting to ATSC 3.0. All streams will be simulcast in ATSC 1.0 on KTMW.
VA	Norfolk	WTVZ	33 (33)	Granted STA for 37.2% power pending installation of new transmitter.
VA	Sussex Co.	W15DO	18 (44)	Requests move to ch. 18 Sussex & power reduction to 500w/20m, 36-57-27/77-10-22. Amendment from 15kw/172m on existing channel 15 and site near Norfolk. Amended again to add city change.
WA	Bellevue	KUNS-TV	24 (51)	Returned to full power.
WA	Pullman	KWSU-TV	10 (10)	OFF Jan. 1st. Doesn't explicitly say so but it looks like budgetary issues are involved.
WA	Richland	KTNW	31 (22)	Requests STA for unspecified reduced power due to transmitter malfunctions.
WA	Seattle	K08JP	2 (2)	Requests move from ch. 8 Dryden, 3kw/635m, 47-28-08/121-49-21.
WA	Seattle	LSR	3	Requests STA, 5w/28m, 47-36-50/122-20-04; Seattle Convention Center – Summit Building, 1/24/26-1/28/26 (Acumatica conference?) Granted.
WA	Seattle	K15IQ	8 (3)	Requests move from ch. 15 Astoria, Ore., 1.9kw/145m, 47-16-43/122-30-46; amendment from ch. 26.
WA	Spokane	KDYS-LD	32 (32)	OFF Dec. 31 st pending completion of new facilities. Returned to the air Jan. 20 th with new facilities: 10kw/417m, 47-35-57/117-18-01.
WI	Baraboo	WPDR-LD	8 (31)	Requests move from ch. 35 Tomah, 15kw/315m, 43-25-40/89-39-14. See below.
WI	La Crosse	W22FK	29 (22)	Requests move from ch. 22 Baraboo, 7.5kw/196m, 43-44-52/91-17-55; amendment to add city change.
WI	Madison	W25FT	33 (25)	Requests move from ch. 25 Baraboo, 5.25kw/119m, 43-03-09/89-28-36. (WKOW-27 radar tower, Tokay Blvd.)
WI	Verona	WMWI-LD	17 (16)	Returned to the air Jan. 17 th with new facilities: 15kw/99m, 43-10-10/89-15-38 (WXXM 92.1 tower near Sun Prairie)
WY	Gillette	KOPA-CD	9 (12)	OFF Dec. 30 th , transmitter issues.

Guide to abbreviations:

CC	Callsign change.
LSR	Live Sports Radio (VERY low-power temporary stations at sporting events.)
NW	New station on the air.
OFF	Station is off the air.

PC/PG/PR	Power and-or antenna height change on the air/granted/requested.
QC/QG/QR	Channel change on the air/granted/requested.
QRP	Station is operating at reduced power.
RA	Station returned to the air, or returned to full power after QRP.
ST-C/ST-G/ST-R	Special Temporary Authority in use/granted/requested for reduced facilities.

Entries **in boldface** are full-power stations; all others are LPTVs or Class A.

TECHNICAL NOTES:

NEW-2 Cupertino:

Proposed coordinates are in the Atlantic Ocean off Virginia Beach. And the address given for the applicant is Apple Computer headquarters. One can reasonably assume there was no chance the Commission would seriously consider this proposal(grin)!

The other proposed new channel assignments in California, however, are legitimate.

WODP-LD 15 Toledo:

The application for WODP to move from channel 36 Fort Wayne, Indiana initially mistakenly specified the new city as Toledo, *Indiana*. There actually is a Toledo in Indiana, and it isn't very far from Fort Wayne – but the WODP application was soon amended to specify the correct state. See below for another application which arguably specified the wrong *country*....

K17LM El Centro:

Last month we had this station moving from Yuma, Arizona to "Mexicali, Arizona". There is no such place; they meant Mexicali, Mexico about a half-mile away. They have now amended the application to specify "El Centro, Arizona".

There is still no such place. Presumably they meant El Centro, California...

WPDR-LD Baraboo:

This station is currently operating from Tomah, Wisconsin as a translator of WKBT La Crosse. The proposed new site (the WOLX-94.9 tower adjacent to Devils Head Ski Area near Baraboo) is in the Madison market. After the move, WPDR will presumably join translators in Madison and Janesville to relay co-owned WISC-TV.

FCC on Track For an NCE FM Translator Filing Window, Likely in Late 2026

Things you need to know about what is coming up, what this is for and how REC will be handling this.

Michi Bradley – Rec Networks

Jan 28, 2026



On January 28, 2026, the FCC has released a **circulation draft** regarding ground rules for an upcoming filing window for new FM translators in the reserved band for non-commercial educational use for consideration for vote by the full Commission at their **February 16, 2026 Open Meeting**. The circulation draft is for a *Public Notice* that will collect ground rules regarding an upcoming filing window for new FM translator stations operating in the “reserved band” (the 20 channels between 88.1~91.9 MHz) for use exclusively by noncommercial educational broadcast stations, including both full-service and LPFM stations.

The rules for new reserved band FM translators were originally enacted in 2000 and in those 26 years, there has never been a filing window for new FM translators in the reserved band.

FM translators are solely for the rebroadcast of an existing FM or AM noncommercial educational broadcast station (including LPFM) and **cannot be used to originate its own programming**.

FM translators come in two flavors:

- A **fill-in translator** was originally intended to allow stations, especially in rural areas to fill in a gap in coverage within their service contour that is otherwise impeded by terrain. Modern day applications of fill-in translators also include the use of these stations to rebroadcast the HD Radio stream (such as an HD2) of the primary station being rebroadcast as well as to rebroadcast the signal of an AM broadcast station. The 60 dBu service contour of a fill-in translator must be completely inside of the service contour of the FM station (or for AM, within either the 2 mV/m daytime contour or 25 miles from the AM station, whichever is farther in each direction). There are no restrictions on height and a 250 watt power limit as long as the contour of the translator remains inside the contour of the primary station and as long as other stations are protected.
- A **non fill-in translator** can be used by noncommercial broadcasters (including LPFM stations). These translators can be used to extend a station's service area into a different community. There are restrictions on power based on a “maximum height above average terrain” formula. There are different height/power limitations for proposals east or west of the Mississippi River and for California south of 40 degrees latitude. Most non-fill in translators (including all translators for

LPFM stations) must be able to receive the primary station it is rebroadcasting from over the air (you can't use the internet). Non fill-in translators licensed to full-service noncommercial stations that have primary stations in the reserved band can use any method to deliver programming (LPFM stations can't do this).

There are also **additional restrictions** on the placement of FM translators that are licensed to LPFM stations as well as ownership limits.

FM translators use **one-way contour protection** (translator interfering into the other station's service contour) and can utilize directional antennas to achieve protection. FM translators are **vulnerable to interference complaints** using a procedure outlined in both **§74.1203** and **§74.1204(f)** of the rules. FM translators in the reserved band are required to **protect all TV Channel 6 facilities**, including full-service, Class A TV, Low Power TV and TV translator stations. Waivers can be provided by the licensee(s) of the affected Channel 6 station(s). FM translators exceeding 99 watts must also protect the facilities on intermediate frequencies (+ 10.6 and 10.8 MHz/+53 or 54 channels). There are also additional protections & restrictions for proposals near Canada and Mexico.

In the Circulation Draft, the Commission is considering adding specific ground rules for the following translator window to accommodate this window. These proposed ground rules are intended to prevent the speculation that took place following the 2003 "Great Translator Invasion" (Auction 83) filing window. Specifically, the FCC is proposing:

- For **full-service** FM NCE stations, the proposed limit is **10 applications** based on attributable interests. This is exactly like the same limit that was put in place for the 2021 full-service NCE FM filing window. (In most cases, this means up to 10 applications per licensee and not 10 applications per station. It gets tricky if an organization has a board member that serves on the boards of more than one organization applying in the filing window.)
- For **LPFM stations**, the proposed limit is **2 applications** for most stations and 4 for stations that serve Tribal lands. This is consistent with **§73.860** of the rules. LPFM stations that already have one translator licensed to them can only obtain one translator as to not exceed their limit.
- For all station types (NCE FM, noncommercial AM and LPFM), the translator may only be applied for by the licensee of the station for which the FM translator is intended to rebroadcast. Unlike the AM Revitalization windows (Auctions 99 & 100) in 2017 & 2018, the translator will not be permanently "married" to the primary station and therefore can be changed in the future to a different station that would otherwise meet the requirements.

Matt Sittel Regarding Updating the Stats Column on the WTFDA Website.

There are six responses with log totals so far, including my own. A bit disappointing, and if I had to decide right now, this would definitely fall into the "not enough support" category. I'm willing to wait another month and see if support picks up. If you could put another reminder in the LOS newsletter that would be good.

I dunno, people...6 replies from 282 members...you do the math. -ed

TV DX and Photos

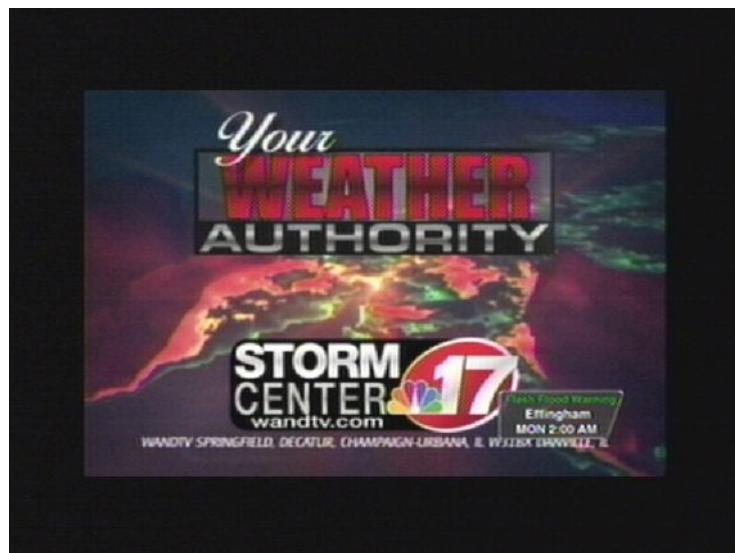
Eric Bueneman N0UIH 631 Coachway Ln, Hazelwood, MO 63042-1347
Email: n0uiheric@gmail.com - Deadline the 10th of the month



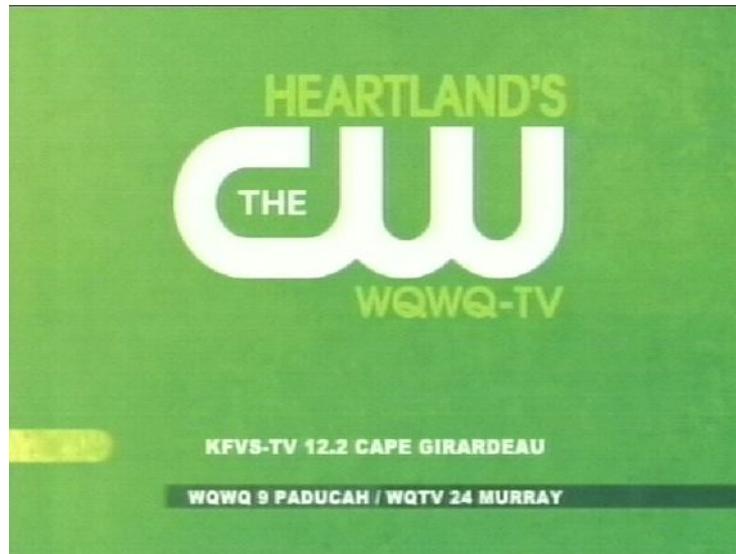
This month, I will be profiling the best video captures from my sixth year of DTV DXing, 2010, the first full year after the transition for full power stations.



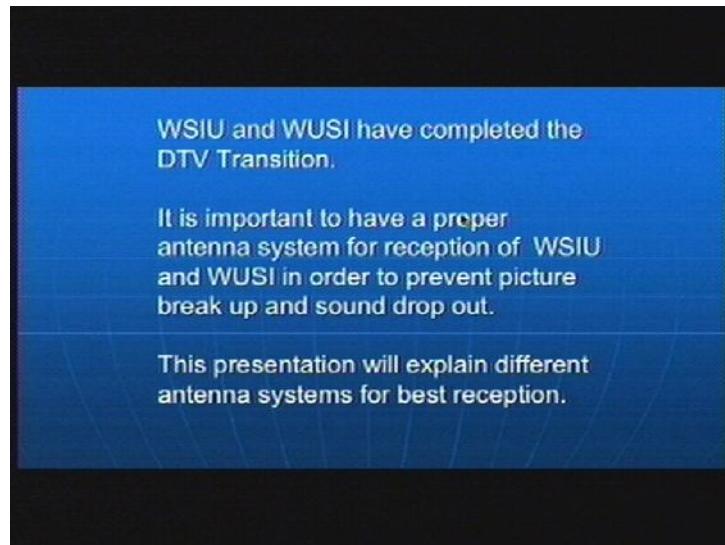
KMIK 17.2 (17.2) Columbia, MO
105 miles (169 km) tropo
Seen July 21, 2010
(Still on RF 17)



WAND 17 (17) Decatur, IL
110 miles (177 km) tropo
Seen June 13, 2010
(Now on RF 20)



KFVS 12.2 (12.2) Cape Girardeau, MO
115 miles (184 km) tropo
Seen June 12, 2010
(Now on RF 11)



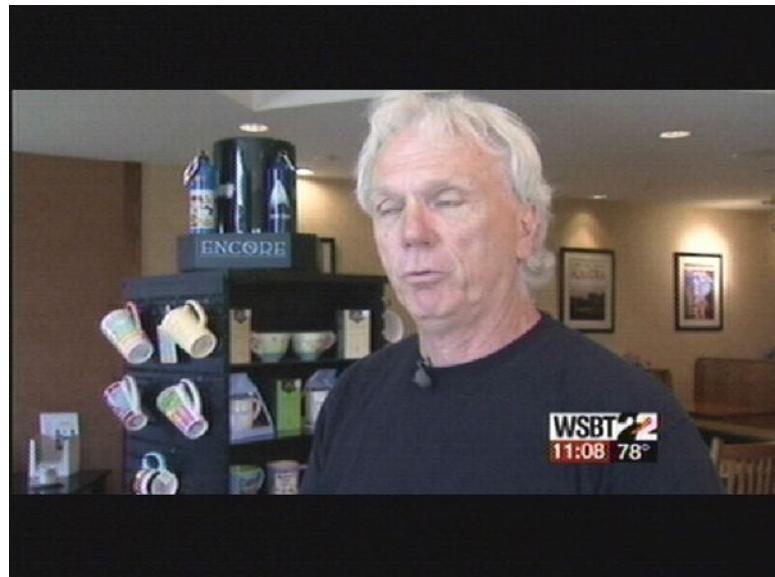
WUSI 19.4 (16.4) Olney, IL
130 miles (209 km) tropo
Seen July 21, 2010
(Now on RF 23)



WTWO 36 (2) Terre Haute, IN
170 miles (274 km) tropo
Seen July 19, 2010
(Now on RF 35)



WISH 9.2 (8.2) Indianapolis, IN
240 miles (386 km) tropo
Seen July 16, 2010
(Still on RF 9, sharing channel with WNDY virtual 23 Marion, IN)



WSBT 22 (22) South Bend, IN
300 miles (483 km) tropo
Seen July 16, 2010
(Now on RF 29)



WISE 18.3 (33.3) Fort Wayne, IN
320 miles (515 km) tropo
Seen July 16, 2010
(Now on RF 34)

In the next edition, I'll take a look back at 2011, the second full year after the digital transition for full power stations. I look forward to your logs and photos! 73 and good DX from the Florissant Valley Dial Twister.

REC Preliminary Statement: Proposal for new 250 (or 500)-mile AM on FM Translator Filing Window



REC does not outright oppose a 250 or 500 mile move, however there must be safeguards put in place to protect LPFM stations and to prevent speculation.

Michi Bradley

Dec 31, 2025

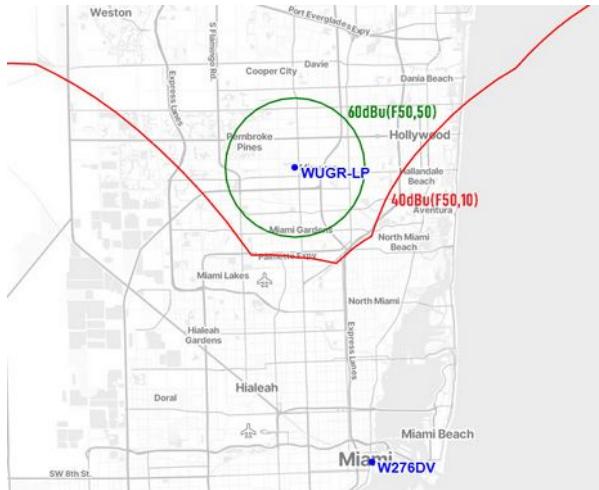
A *Petition for Rulemaking* has been filed by Press Communications, LLC, licensee of WHTG(AM), Eatontown, NJ and co-signed by several other broadcasters to propose that the FCC open another opportunity for the licensees of AM stations to be able to acquire existing FM translators and allow them to be moved up to 500 miles for the purpose of allowing the translator to be used as fill-in service for an AM station. This is similar to the 2016 “250-mile move” opportunity that was provided in former FCC Chairman Ajit Pai’s “AM Revitalization” initiative, [MB Docket 13-249](#) (paras. 12~17).

Unlike the previous 250-mile move window of 2016, Press, et. al. is requesting that the maximum move distance be 500 miles instead of 250. They cite that the additional distance is needed because stations on both coasts, the Gulf of Mexico and in the border areas were at a disadvantage because they did not have a full 250-mile circumference in all directions to translators from. They also want the move opportunity to make this 250/500-mile move opportunity permanent. They also want to impose a limitation of a maximum of “3 translators per AM station license”. The latter is so no AM station is forced out of the market by additional FM translators by either a huge entity acquiring dozens or a greater number of translators for a particular station or a greater number of FM translators for a particular AM station or a competing station usurping all available FM translator spectrum in a market. In the previous 250-mile move window, AM stations were limited to only moving one FM translator. They also want to give Class C and D AM stations a head start, which is consistent with the 2016 opportunity.

Today, FM translators can only be moved a distance where the 60 dBu contour of the current facility overlaps in part with the 60 dBu contour of the proposed facility. A separate process, called a *Mattoon Waiver* can be used to move an FM translator a farther distance if the translator is to be used for AM fill-in service, does not impact future LPFM availability in “spectrum limited” markets, there is mutual exclusivity in either direction between the current and proposed translator facility, and the applicant does not have a history of multiple filings in order to slowly move a translator to the desired location through a series of minor modifications.

In the past, other LPFM advocates had opposed the 250-mile move opportunity because it would not pass the statutory muster of Section 5 of the [Local Community Radio Act of 2010](#). At that time, REC did not take this position because Section 5 of the LCRA applies only to new FM translator, LPFM and FM booster stations and not to the move of existing stations. The LCRA would only come into play if new (drop-in) translators were

being proposed, similar to the Auctions 99 and 100 filing windows in 2017 and 2018. At that time, REC's position was that because AM stations were limited to one FM translator and each translator obtained through the Auction window would be permanently "married" to the AM station with no opportunity to change the translator's primary station, the addition of the translators would fall under "community need" as required in §5(2) of the LCRA. We note that the Press petition does not propose the opening of a new auction filing window for new FM translator stations, only the modification of existing FM translator stations.



Because REC's constituency is more than just LPFM stations (which we are commonly stereotyped as), but also includes smaller commercial and noncommercial AM and FM broadcasters, especially those in rural areas, we must look at it in a way that protects the interests of LPFM stations as well as those of smaller AM broadcast stations.

Over the years, REC has either witnessed or received complaints regarding FM translators proposing strangely designed composite directional antennas that are engineered as a way to completely surround an LPFM station, such as the recently filed

modification by W276DV and its impacts to WUGR-LP near Hollywood, FL, which has resulted in an *Informal Objection* (incorrectly presented as a *Petition to Deny*) opposing the modification of the translator.

REC has always been concerned about these types of arrangements, especially where such antennas would be very costly and where some translators authorized in this manner would eventually build with a different antenna which may cause actual interference. While LPFM stations do have recourse under §§ 74.1203 and 74.1204(f) of the rules, those rules are based on the contour and not on actual operations. LPFM stations may not have recourse to address an improper antenna because it would require FCC field enforcement to inspect the translator antenna and as many of us know, broadcasting is well on the bottom of the FCC's field enforcement triage as it does not involve high value commercial services nor safety of life communications.

While it may be necessary for REC to first conduct a constituent survey before going on the record with the FCC on this proposal (which we may do if this petition receives an "RM" number and it opens for comments), we will make our initial positions on this issue in a manner that would be a compromise across our entire constituency. These positions are subject to change based on the outcome of a constituent survey.

250 vs. 500 mile move: If the Commission was to entertain a 500 mile move distance, REC would insist that a move between 251 and 500 miles would only be allowed for AM stations in the continental United States and Alaska that are physically located less than 250 miles from one or more of the following: Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of America (as recognized under Executive Order 14172, also recognized as some as Gulf of Mexico)¹, the common border with Canada and the common border of Mexico.

Three station maximum: We do not agree with the three station maximum. Instead, we would call for that the number of stations be limited to two and whether the Commission was to go with two or three stations, any translators that were granted (even if not built) in the original 250-mile move or obtained new in Auctions 99 or 100 would count towards those two stations. This means that many AM stations would be able to move one translator and those who did not participate in 2016~2018 would be able to move two.

Licensee of moved station: REC would insist that the licensee of the translator be the same as the licensee of the AM station which will be designated as the primary station. If the current licensee of the FM translator is different, then an application to request consent to assign the FM translator authorization must be filed simultaneously. In cases where an assignment application is filed, program testing and/or licensing would not be authorized until the assignment is both granted and consummated. This prevents speculation. Once moved in this manner, the translator cannot be assigned again for the lifetime of the translator and must be simultaneously assigned or cancelled if the AM ownership changes.

Primary station designation: The primary station of the FM translator must remain the AM station and cannot be changed in the future at any time. In the 2016 opportunity, the FM translator only needed to operate with that AM station as the primary for four years of licensed operation. This would be a permanent marriage similar to those translators authorized in Auctions 99 and 100. This will prevent a translator being moved to a more prominent metro area and then after four years, being sold off to be used for a different station. REC could consider situations where the primary station is redesignated to a different AM station that is commonly owned by the licensee in the same area.

Translators within close proximity to an LPFM station: Any translator that proposes to operate within 67 km of one or more LPFM stations on co-channel and/or within 35 km of one or more LPFM stations on first-adjacent channels and with a directional antenna must be subject to [§74.1235\(i\)](#) which requires that a directional antenna must have a proof of performance (including computer modeling for antenna models that were previously physically proofed) with the exception of “off the shelf” directional antennas used in a single antenna (non-composite) configuration and in all cases (including “off the shelf”), must certify that the antenna is mounted per the manufacturer’s instructions and to certify that the antenna is mounted in the proper orientation and location. The latter would have to be conducted by a licensed surveyor (this is a rule that we would like to see with all future FM translator modifications and construction permits, regardless of primary station).

New FM translator stations: Even though this proposal does not call for the creation of new FM translator stations (only the moves of existing ones), we absolutely oppose a second set of auction windows for new “FM into AM” translator station construction permits. Actually, we oppose any new translator filing window (either in the non-reserved or reserved band) until the FCC puts the safeguards in place as [proposed by REC in RM-11952](#) in order to comply with the LCRA and to address the changed role of fill-in FM translators.

We see these counter-proposed compromises to be a happy medium that does address the issues being faced by current smaller AM broadcast stations and to protect the current base of the 2,000+ LPFM stations currently operating or otherwise authorized.

Again, these are not our final positions, just our starting points. We do welcome feedback on these positions and any compelling arguments that could sway our position knowing that any such arguments must be consistent with both the interests of LPFM stations and those of AM broadcasters seeking FM translators.

And that is all for this month. Stay warm, and as usual, this newsletter is brought to you by



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