



The VHF-UHF Digest

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WORLDWIDE TV-FM DX ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 501, Somersville, CT 06072 <https://www.wtfda.org>

THE WORLDWIDE TV-FM DX ASSOCIATION IS DEDICATED TO THE OBSERVATION AND STUDY OF LONG DISTANCE VHF AND UHF PROPAGATION AS IT APPLIES TO SIGNALS FROM 30MHZ THROUGH 600MHZ WITH EMPHASIS ON BROADCAST TELEVISION AND FM RADIO. The WTFDA Board of Directors are: Keith McGinnis (longwave@comcast.net), James Thomas (jethomas1955@gmail.com), Nick Langan (nickl@wtfda.org), Mike bugaj (mike@wtfda.org) and Jon Klingerman (jon@wtfda.org).

OCTOBER 2023

Hello! This is our very first complete VUD online. At this point I'd say that the transition is complete. The DX columns are now in the table below. The Mailbox is here in spirit. Much of the content on this page will change from month to month. Instead of reprinting articles from various sources we will just link to them here. There will not be an archive of online VUDs. Come back on the first of the month for new stuff. We will remind you.

The end of August and the first few days of September were pretty hectic for DXers in the midwest but since then DXing has slowed down considerably. Since we are entering the middle of fall, there's always the chance for more tropo, so pay attention and check out the Wlogger to see if someone is noticing something.

NEW MEMBERS. Welcome to John Hanna (IL) and to Danny Kolhage in Winter Garden, FL who joined on the 27th. John was a WTFDA member years ago, so welcome back!

LOGGING IN AND LOGGING OUT. When you're finished reading this page, log yourself out before going to the other public pages on this site. If you want to come back here again, log yourself back in again. Going to other pages on this site using the above menu on this page will take you back to the public site and you won't be able to come back here again without logging in first. I hope this isn't confusing.

GONE. It recently was made known to us that material in our FM Changes column was being used by a third party for purposes other than it was intended. There is no way that data from FM Changes should have ended up in the hands of a commercial third party unless the data was given to them. FM Changes was a labor of love to the members of our club from your US FM database editors. It was abused, so FM Changes is no longer.

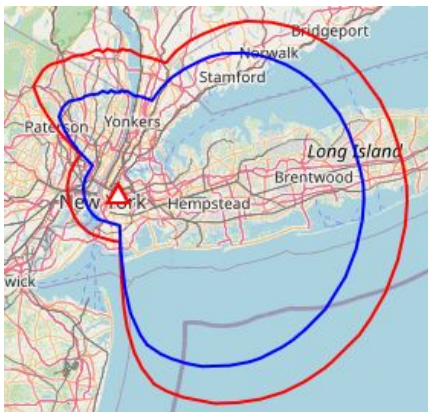
SDR SALES. This month we note that Ham Radio Outlet has the SDRPlay RSP-1A on sale for \$119.95 and Airspy is selling their Airspy Mini for just \$99. Either one of those is a good SDR for a beginner. The RSP-1A is in a plastic black box while the Mini is a metal enclosed dongle that plugs into your computer. The Mini will show you up to 6mhz of spectrum (like an Elad S1) while you can get up to 10mhz with an RSP-1A. We have links to both sites here on the right so take a look if you're interested.



TEF 6686 PORTABLES. Someone on the WTFDA forums recently asked about good portable radios for FM Dxing. Now that I own one, in my opinion and the opinions of others, nothing beats a radio with the TEF6686 chip in it. The sensitivity of this chip is such that, according to tests done by member Bill Honstein and posted on the WTFDA Forums, adjacent channel selectivity is just a couple of db's less than that of the Sony XDR-F1HD! An outdoor antenna can be attached using an SMA to F fitting, pointed at a strong local station and the radio will NOT overload. We've put a link to reputable Amazon seller GOOZEEGOO on the right. His price is \$129 and you can get quick delivery from him.



ATSC 3.0 OBSOLETE? Bill Hepburn posted this on Mewe: *The HEVC (H.265) codec used in ATSC 3.0 has already been succeeded by VVC (H.266), which is even more bandwidth-efficient allowing even more programs per channel. So instead of an ATSC -> ATSC 3.0 transition, could it end up being an ATSC -> ATSC 4.0 transition? The ITU is also ready to add two 5G TV broadcast modes (which would use UHF-TV channels and be separate from the cellular 5G network).* Bill Hohnstein replied: *"ATSC 3.0 isn't married to a single video format. Right now, ATSC 3.0 uses the H.265 HEVC codec for video delivery because of its efficiency gains over the much older H.262 MPEG-2 codec used in ATSC 1.0. Over time and through upgrades, it will be able to adopt newer codecs like the recently finalized H.266 VVC codec, which is the leading candidate to usher in 8K when that time comes."* Read more about that [here](#).



WNYZ-LD. One of the items we have for you this month is a document that WNYZ-LD submitted to the FCC recently. WNYZ-LD, for those who don't know, is on channel six in New York City plus it broadcasts on 87.75mhz which makes it a Franken FM. It's a tech document outlining their TV and FM operation that you may find interesting, plus it has a detailed coverage map that answers the question why so few people have heard (or seen) the station. You'll find the document at the end of this VUD.

Here's a question from Bill Lipis in San Diego: A couple OTA tv viewers I've run into have had their newer Vizio TV sets audio switch from OTA to internet "streams". There doesn't seem to be manual/auto input modes on these Vizio sets. It's a hassle for folks, especially if you want to stay OTA. I suggested they just disconnect the cat5 internet cable while in OTA mode. You DX folks run into this? Perhaps the TV stations are now sending out OTA "flags" to tell sets to switch to internet? It's crazy. Many NFL games are now only on "streaming" and not OTA.

Doing a little more checking, I found this Vizio "auto" [switching article](#). Seems to be common issue with "smart TVs". Newer TVs are just big screens powered by computer chips with insensitive tuners. Even the remotes aren't simple anymore. Smartcast—is way too smart!!!! even without Internet connected looks like it's saying it will try and go back to "old" inputs. This is why I have an older set and sticking to it! I'm reading about all the

encrypon “flags” stations put out on secondary ATSC 3/NexGen channels mainly to stop recording and OTA free use. Plus the 3.0 DRM issues that sll unresolved.

Well, my LG “Smart TV” was doing the same thing, which was going to the internet screen when turned on instead of HDMI1. Thanks to this email from Bill I was able to fix that by going into the LG menus and turning it off. My wife thanked me and I thank Bill in return. (-ed)

LG DROPS ATSC 3.0 TUNERS IN NEW TVS! Bill Lipis also sent along this link to a YouTube video that explains [why this happened](#) and why it’s not a good sign for ATSC 3.0.

Have a great October and we will see you here next month. And as usual I would like your comments on this new format. -Mike

Federal Communications Commission
NEXT GENERATION LOW POWER TELEVISION
BROADCAST STATION
LICENSE

Licensee/Permittee
Sound of Long Island, Inc.
136-56 39th Avenue
4th Floor
Flushing, NY, 11354

Facility ID: 56043
NTSC TSID:
Digital TSID:
This License Modifies License No. 0000184526

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| Call Sign File Number WNYZ-LD 0000184380 | |
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ATSC 3.0

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|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Grant Date 03/22/2022 | | Expiration Date 06/01/2023 |
| Hours of Operation Unlimited | | |
| Station Location City NEW YORK State NY | Frequency (MHz) 82.0 - 88.0 | Station Channel 6 |

WNYZ-LD's newly-minted NextGen TV license; the station received its STA for hybrid ATSC 3.0 DTV/ analog FM radio operation the day after the license was granted.

180 Day Written Report Concerning Operation Under Special Temporary Authority
FCC FILE NUMBER 0000200593
WNYZ-LD CH 6 ATSC 3.0 Operation With Ancillary/Supplementary Audio Service
Prepared September 13, 2023

Sound of Long Island, Inc. (“SOL”), licensee of LPTV station WNYZ-LD Channel 6, New York, New York, Facility ID 56043, was authorized FM6 operation on 87.75 MHz by a letter dated March 23, 2022, from Barbara A. Kreisman, Chief, Video Division of the FCC Media Bureau, LMS file number 0000184381. In that letter, 90 day and 180 day written reports were requested and have been filed.

On September 21, 2022, SOL filed a request for extension of STA under file number 0000200593. By letter dated October 4, 2022, from Barbara A. Kreisman, Chief, Video Division of the FCC Media Bureau, SOL was granted a six month extension of STA. A 90 day report was filed on December 16, 2022, and the 180 day document was submitted on March 20, 2023. On March 23, 2023, a new 180 day STA was granted.

This 180 day report is for the purpose of addressing the eight special conditions on the STA:

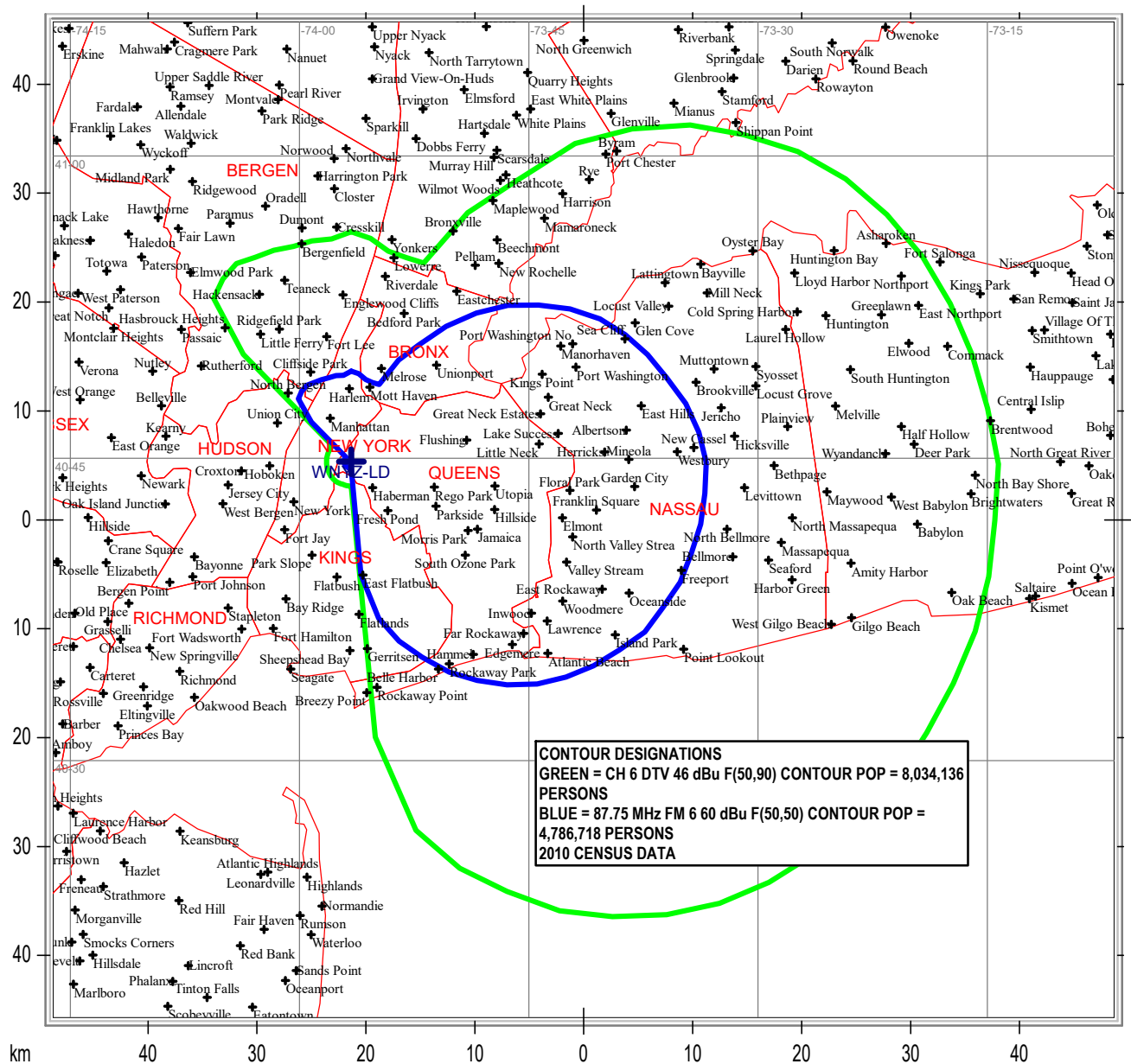
1. FM6 operations are being conducted on 87.75 MHz.
2. SOL acknowledges that the STA grant is issued on a non-interference basis.
3. In its original STA request SOL stated that WNYZ-LD utilizes transmission equipment furnished by SYES which includes all RF transmission equipment of SYES manufacture along with combiner, filtering and mask filter manufactured by Com-Tech. The RF power output of the video and analog transmitters are equal, and the combined RF output is fed through a single transmission line and into a broadband circularly polarized antenna system providing 3 kW ERP for both the video and analog services. No changes to the transmission system have been made and the configuration does offer equal signal to be received by over the air receivers.
4. SOL has received no complaints of caused interference to or from other licensed users. SOL has received no complaints of interference between WNYZ-LD’s video and audio services and no evidence of the audio affecting the coverage or quality of the video signal has been observed.

The audio signal does not derogate the Station's obligations under Section 74.790(g)(3) of the FCC's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 74.790(g)(3). However, should any unexpected interference occur the licensee will take prompt action including reduction of power or cessation of transmission if necessary.

5. From the inception of WNYZ ATSC 3.0 and FM6 operation, the station has transmitted one 24 hour a day Korean language video program, synchronized audio and video content, and a separate Korean Language audio program on the FM signal. The video program content is observed at the transmitter site on a SiliconDust ATSC 3.0 tuner, and the programming can be satisfactorily viewed on consumer receiving equipment.
6. As permitted under the ATSC A/322 standard, the Station's ATSC 3.0 signal is configured to occupy 5.509 MHz of the Station's digital channel. The ancillary or supplementary audio signal occupies a portion of the remaining bandwidth assigned to the Station as part of its DTV channel. No change in the technical facilities has occurred and the licensee understands that no modification to the transmission system is permitted.
7. This condition is understood as a part of the STA grant.
8. SOL recognizes that the authorization of FM6 operation is not intended to prejudice the outcome of a pending proceeding.

Attached is a map depicting the DTV and FM coverage contours as prescribed by applicable FCC rules for LPTV DTV and FM services.

WNYZ-LD CH 6 FM6 STA 3 kW MAX DA ERP RC 213 M AMSL NEW YORK, NY



Communications Technologies, Inc. Medford, New Jersey

County Borders Lat/Lon Grid