

ANNOUNCEMENT

from the Copyright Office, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

INITIATION OF ARBITRATION

ADJUSTMENT OF THE RATES FOR NONCOMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPULSORY LICENSE

The following excerpt is taken from Volume 63, Number 21 of the Federal Register for Monday, February 2, 1998 (pp. 5405-5406)

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Copyright Office

[Docket No. 96-6 CARP NCBRA]

Adjustment of the Rates for Noncommercial Educational Broadcasting Compulsory License

AGENCY: Copyright Office, Library of Congress.

ACTION: Initiation of Arbitration.

.SUMMARY: The Librarian of Congress is announcing initiation of the 180-day arbitration period for the adjustment of the rates for the noncommercial educational broadcasting license.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: All hearings and meetings for the section 118 compulsory license proceeding shall take place in the James Madison Memorial Building, Room 414, First and Independence Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20540.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

CONTACT: David O. Carson, General Counsel, or William Roberts, Senior Attorney, P.O. Box 70977, Southwest Station, Washington, D.C. 20024, Telephone (202) 707-8380, Telefax (202) 707-8366.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On October 18, 1996, the Library published a Notice in the Federal Register initiating a voluntary negotiation period for

adjustment of the royalty rates for the noncommercial educational broadcasting compulsory license, 17 U.S.C. 118, 61 FR 54458 (October 18, 1996). Section 118 creates a compulsory license for the use of certain copyrighted works in connection with noncommercial broadcasting. The Library set a date of April 7, 1997, for initiation of arbitration. 61 FR at 54461 (1996). The parties who filed Notices of Intent to Participate in this proceeding, however, requested additional time to negotiate voluntary agreements.

The Library has received several negotiated agreements and joint proposals for rates and terms, and has adopted certain proposed rates and terms. See 62 FR 63502 (Dec. 1, 1997). A controversy remains, however, regarding the rates to be paid by the Public Broadcasting Service and National Public Radio for the use of musical works licensed by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, and Broadcast Music, Inc. Consequently, it is necessary to commence a Copyright Arbitration Royalty Panel (CARP) proceeding to resolve this controversy. This notice fulfills the requirements of 37 CFR 251.64 and sections 118 and 803(c) of title 17. United States Code.

Selection of Arbitrators

In accordance with Sec. 251.6 of the CARP rules, the arbitrators have been selected for this proceeding. They are: The Honorable Lewis Hall Griffith (Chairperson)
The Honorable Jeffrey Gulin
The Honorable Edward Dreyfus

Initiation of Proceeding

Pursuant to Sec. 251.64 of the CARP rules, the Librarian is formally announcing

the existence of a controversy as to the establishment of rates and terms for the adjustment of rates for the section 118 compulsory license, and is initiating an arbitration proceeding under chapter 8 of title 17 to resolve the determination. The arbitration proceeding commences on January 30, 1997, and runs for a period of 180 days. The arbitrators shall file their written report with the Librarian by July 28, 1998, the end of the 180-day period, in accordance with Sec. 251.53 of the rules.

A meeting between the participants in the rate adjustment proceeding and the arbitrators shall take place on Tuesday, February 3, 1998, at 1:30 p.m. at the Library of Congress, James Madison Building, LM 414. First and Independence Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C., to discuss the hearing schedule, arbitrator billing and payment, and any other procedural matters. The meeting is open to the public. Copies of the hearing schedule, once finalized, will be available at the Copyright Office upon request.

Dated: January 28, 1998. David Carson, General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 98-2476 Filed 1-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1410-33-P