

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	MM Docket No. 93-177
)	
An Inquiry Into the Commission's)	
Policies and Rules Regarding AM)	
Radio Service Directional Antenna)	RM-7594
Performance Verification)	

ORDER

Adopted: August 31, 1999

Released: August 31, 1999

Comment date: September 10, 1999
Reply comment date: September 27, 1999

By the Chief, Mass Media Bureau:

1. We have before us a joint motion by the National Association of Broadcasters ("NAB"), AMFM Inc., Clear Channel Communications, Inc., and The Walt Disney Company, on behalf of its subsidiary, ABC, Inc., [collectively Movants] for a 60-day extension of the comment and reply comment periods in the above-captioned proceeding. For the reasons stated below, we are granting a 60-day extension of time.

2. In the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making*,¹ the Commission proposed to establish rules reducing the regulatory requirements for AM Broadcasters using directional antennas. The *Notice* established comment and reply comment dates of September 10, 1999 and September 27, 1999, respectively.

3. In support of its extension request, Movants assert that the additional time would be used to convene a group of engineering consultants and broadcast engineers with expertise in the field of modeling the performance of AM directional antennas with modern computer software. Movants explain that this group will enable NAB and the industry to develop a consensus regarding the performance of AM directional antenna computer modeling programs and the degree to which they might permit certain field measurements to be eliminated. The additional time would also enable interested parties to investigate a number of issues raised in

¹ See, "An inquiry into the Commission's Policy and Rules Regarding AM Radio Service Directional Antenna Performance Verification", Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 99-126, MM Docket 93-177, released June 11, 1999. This NPRM was published in the Federal Register on July 27, 1999 at 64 FR 40539. Comments are due by September 10, 1999 and reply comments are due by September 27, 1999.

the *Notice* - including the definition of critical arrays, validity of monitor points, number of field strength measurement radials necessary for proof-of-performance, and relevance of graphical and statistical analysis techniques - and to report the findings of the joint discussions on these issues to the Commission.

4. We believe that a 60-day extension of the comment periods is appropriate. We will therefore grant the motion by extending the comment and reply comment dates to November 9, 1999 and November 24, 1999, respectively.² This extension will help us ensure a high-quality record and facilitate the ability of parties to explore the complex technical issues in this proceeding. It will also enable the Commission to identify the range of potential issues that must be resolved in this proceeding.

5. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that the motion for an extension of the comment and reply comment periods filed by the National Association of Broadcasters, AMFM Inc., Clear Channel Communications, Inc., and The Walt Disney Company IS GRANTED.

6. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the comment period in this proceeding IS EXTENDED to November 9, 1999.

7. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the reply comment period in this proceeding IS EXTENDED to November 24, 1999.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Roy J. Stewart
Chief, Mass Media Bureau

² Movants caution that they may not be able to complete discussions and report to the Commission by the new comment deadlines. If that is the case, they suggest that additional time for filing comments and reply comments may be necessary.