

the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Secretaría de Salud (Mexico's Secretariat of Health), the U.S. border Tribes, and the environmental agencies from each of the ten U.S.-Mexico border States. The mission of Border 2012 is to protect public health and the environment in the U.S.-Mexico border region, in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainable development. The Border 2012 Program is the latest multi-year, binational planning effort to be implemented under the La Paz Agreement and succeeds Border XXI, a five-year program that ended in 2000.

The proposed Border 2012 Program was announced in Mexico and in the U.S. **Federal Register** in September 2002. The announcement was followed by a 60-day public comment period which included binational and domestic meetings in 27 border cities. EPA and SEMARNAT also requested input from interested parties through additional meetings, written correspondence, and internet exchanges. During the comment period, over 1,000 individual comments were received. The Border 2012 Framework was then altered to reflect many of the comments and recommendations; the new framework contains more detailed goals and objectives and a focus on environmental education and training. In addition, based on public comments, the Border 2012 Operational Guidance was created to assist partners, stakeholders, and the general public to understand how the program is implemented. The Border 2012 Framework Document, the Response Summary Report, and the Operational Guidance can be found online at <http://www.epa.gov.usmexicoborder>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The proposed Border 2012 emphasizes a bottom-up approach, anticipating that local decision-making, priority-setting and project implementation will best address environmental issues in the border region. The new Border 2012 Program builds upon the successes achieved under Border XXI while also establishing a regionally-focused border plan to facilitate environmental priority setting and planning at the regional and local levels. Border 2012 will emphasize concrete measurable results, public participation, transparency, and timely access to environmental information.

II. Coordinating Bodies

Border 2012 is organized around coordinating bodies. These coordinating

bodies include National Coordinators, four Regional (geographically-focused) Workgroups, three Border-wide Workgroups, and three Policy Forums.

A. National Coordinators

Consistent with the requirements of the La Paz Agreement, the National Coordinators will monitor and manage implementation of the Border 2012 Program and ensure cooperation and communication among all coordinating bodies.

B. Regional Workgroups

Providing the foundation of the Border 2012 Program, four multi-media, regionally focused workgroups will support the efforts of local Task Forces and coordinate activities at the regional and local level. The Regional Workgroups are the following: California-Baja California, Arizona-Sonora, New Mexico-Texas-Chihuahua, and Texas-Coahuila-Nuevo Leon-Tamaulipas.

C. Border-wide Workgroups

Border-wide Workgroups will concentrate on issues that are multi-regional and primarily federal in nature. Three Border-wide Workgroups will have federal U.S. and Mexican co-chairs for the following issues: environmental health, emergency preparedness and response, and cooperative enforcement and compliance.

D. Policy Forums

Policy Forums will have a media-specific focus and will concentrate on broad policy issues that require an ongoing dialogue between the U.S. and Mexico in the following areas: air; water; hazardous waste, solid waste, and toxic substances.

Border 2012 Coordinating Bodies will be broad-based and will include representation from local communities from both sides of the border, including non-governmental or community-based organizations; academic institutions; local, state, and U.S. tribal representatives; and binational organizations.

III. Goals and Objectives

Border 2012 establishes the following six border-wide environmental goals for the U.S.-Mexico border region: reduce water contamination; reduce air pollution; reduce land contamination; improve environmental health; reduce exposure to chemicals as a result of accidental chemical release and/or acts of terrorism; and improve environmental performance through compliance, enforcement, pollution

prevention, and promotion of environmental stewardship.

For further information on Border 2012, please contact: EPA El Paso Border Office at 915-533-7273 or 800-334-0741 or EPA San Diego Border Office at 619-235-4765 or 800-334-0741. Hard copies of the Border 2012 Framework document can be obtained by calling 1-800-490-9198 or accessing <http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom> on the Internet and requesting public document #160R03001.

Dated: December 10, 2003.

Joan Fidler,

Director Office of Western Hemisphere and Bilateral Affairs, Office of International Affairs.

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COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

National Environmental Policy Act Task Force

AGENCY: Council on Environmental Policy.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Rocky Mountain Regional NEPA Roundtable will be held on January 8 and 9, 2004. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) established a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Task Force to review the current NEPA implementing practices and procedures in the following areas: Technology and information management; Federal and intergovernmental collaboration; programmatic analyses and subsequent tiered documents; and adaptive management and monitoring. In addition, the NEPA Task Force reviewed other NEPA implementation issues such as the level of detail included in agencies' procedures and documentation for promulgating categorical exclusions; the structure and documentation of environmental assessments; and other implementation practices that would benefit Federal agencies.

"The Task Force Report to the Council on Environmental Quality—Modernizing NEPA Implementation" was published and presented to CEQ on September 24, 2003. The Report contains recommendations designed to improve federal agency decision making by modernizing the NEPA process. To further the work of the NEPA Task Force, CEQ is holding a series of regional public roundtables to raise public awareness of the NEPA Task Force draft recommendations and

discuss the recommendations and their implementation. The Rocky Mountain Regional NEPA Roundtable will be held at the Copper Mountain Conference Center, Copper Mountain, Colorado. Information about the location is at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/ceg> or the NEPA Task Force Web site at http://www.coppercolorado.com/meetings/site/virtual_tours The Rocky Mountain NEPA Roundtable is co-hosted by the Greater Yellowstone Coalition and the National Ski Area Association. Representatives from important constituent groups that have worked on NEPA issues have been invited to participate in a discussion of the recommendations.

DATES: The Rocky Mountain regional public roundtable will be held on January 8 and 9, 2004. The January 8 session will begin at 9 a.m. and interested members of the public will have an opportunity to present their views at 3:30 p.m. following the roundtable discussion. That session will end in the evening after public views have been presented. The session on January 9 will begin at 9 a.m. and interested members of the public will have an opportunity to present their views at 11 a.m. following the roundtable discussion.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties can review the Task Force report via the CEQ Web site at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/> or the NEPA Task Force Web site at <http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/ntf/>. If you would like a printed copy, please mail a request to The NEPA Task Force, 722 Jackson Place, NW., Washington, DC 20585, or contact Bill Perhach at (202) 395-0826 to request a copy.

Dated: December 10, 2003.

James L. Connaughton,
Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[EB Docket No. 03-241; DA 03-3783]

In the Matter of Roger Thomas Scaggs Advanced Class Amateur Radio Operator and Licensee of Amateur Radio Station W5EBC

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice; Order to show cause.

SUMMARY: This document is an order in which the Enforcement Bureau of the

Federal Communications Commission requests a hearing proceeding before a Commission administrative law judge to determine whether Roger Thomas Scaggs, the licensee of W5EBC Amateur Radio Station and Advanced Class Operator license, is qualified to remain a Commission licensee in light of his 1998 felony conviction for murder and whether his authorization should be revoked.

DATES: Effective December 22, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Oshinsky, (202) 418-7167 or e-mail goshinsky@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the *Order to Show Cause regarding Roger Thomas Scaggs*, EB Docket No. 03-241, DA 03-3738, released November 21, 2003. The complete text of this document is available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-A257, Washington, DC, 20554. In addition, the complete text may be retrieved from the FCC's Web site at <http://www.fcc.gov>. The *Order to Show Cause regarding Roger Thomas Scaggs* may also be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC, 20554, telephone 202-863-2893, facsimile 202-863-2898, or via e-mail qualexint@aol.com.

A. Background

1. Approximately six months after the Commission granted Mr. Scaggs' subject amateur radio license, on November 16, 1998, he was convicted for the March 6, 1996, murder of Penny Scaggs, his wife of thirty-five years. The record in that case showed that Mr. Scaggs beat to death his wife with a galvanized lead pipe and then stabbed her several times in their home. Mr. Scaggs was convicted and sentenced by the jury to a prison term of thirty-two (32) years, and he was fined Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00). His conviction was affirmed and his request for rehearing overruled on June 22, 2000.

B. Discussion

2. Accordingly, section 312(a) (2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act"), provides that the Commission may revoke any license on the basis of "conditions coming to the attention of the Commission which would warrant it in refusing to grant a license or permit on the original application." Among the factors that the Commission considers in its review of applications to determine whether the

applicant has the requisite qualifications to operate the station for which authority is sought is the character of the applicant. Before revoking a license, the Commission must serve the licensee with an order to show cause why revocation should not issue and must provide the licensee with an opportunity for hearing.

3. In assessing character qualifications in broadcast licensing matters, the Commission considers, as relevant, "evidence of any conviction for misconduct constituting a felony." The Commission believes that "[b]ecause all felonies are serious crimes, any conviction provides an indication of an applicant's or licensee's propensity to obey the law" and to conform to provisions of both the Act and the agency's rules and policies. The Commission has consistently applied these broadcast character standards to applicants and licensees in the Amateur Radio Service. Thus, very serious felonies raise potential questions regarding an amateur licensee's qualifications.

4. Here, Mr. Scaggs' murder conviction raises very serious questions as to whether he possesses the requisite character qualifications to be and to remain a Commission licensee and whether his captioned license should be revoked. For this reason, we are designating the matter for hearing before a Commission administrative law judge.

C. Ordering Clauses

5. Pursuant to sections 312(a) and (c) of the Act, and authority delegated pursuant to §§ 0.111, 0.311, and 1.91(a) of the Commission's rules, Roger Thomas Scaggs is hereby Ordered to Show Cause why his authorization for Amateur Radio Advanced Class License W5EBC should not be revoked. Roger Thomas Scaggs shall appear before an administrative law judge at a time and place to be specified in a subsequent order and provide evidence upon the following issues:

i. To determine the effect of Roger Thomas Scaggs' felony conviction on his qualifications to be and to remain a Commission licensee; and

ii. To determine, in light of the evidence adduced pursuant to the foregoing issue, whether Roger Thomas Scaggs is qualified to be and to remain a Commission licensee and whether his Amateur Radio Advanced Class License W5EBC should be revoked.

6. Pursuant to section 312(c) of the Act and 1.91(c) of the Commission's rules, to avail himself of the opportunity to be heard and the right to present evidence in the hearing in this proceeding, Roger Thomas Scaggs, in