

Client
Alert

Special
Bulletin to
Clients

FCC Announces Class A, LPTV and TV Translator Digital Channel Filing Window and Freeze on Class A, LPTV and TV Translator Minor Change, Displacement and Digital On-Channel Conversion Applications

From May 1, 2006 through May 12, 2006, Class A, low power, and TV translator permittees and licensees will be able to file applications requesting a paired digital television channel. All Class A, low power and TV translator permittees or licensees in the nation will be allowed to participate in this window. However, those stations who have already filed to convert their existing analog channel to a digital operation will not be allowed to file for a paired channel. In addition, at some later date yet to be determined, the Commission will require Class A, LPTV, and TV translators to cease their analog operation and operate only in digital. At that time, stations with a paired channel will have to return one of the two channels to the FCC.

Stations requesting a paired digital channel will be required to demonstrate that they will continue to serve their existing city of license, and any proposed digital channel must comply with the Commission's interference protection rules. Applicants requesting a paired digital channel will be required to file an FCC Form 175 as well as the technical exhibit from either FCC Form 346 or 301-CA specifying their proposed digital paired channel during the filing window. The exact filing requirements and procedures will be announced in a subsequent public notice.

Finally, the Commission has announced a freeze on all Class A, LPTV, and TV translator analog and digital minor change, displacement and digital flash-cut applications from April 3, 2006 through May 12, 2006.



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