



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

February 6, 2020

WSTJ(AM), ST. JOHNSBURY, VT 49403
VERMONT BROADCAST ASSOCIATES, INC.
10 CHURCH STREET
P.O. BOX 97
LYNDONVILLE, VT 05851

Dear Licensee:

1. In accordance with 47 CFR § 73.2080(f)(4), the station employment unit (the Unit) that includes your station, referenced above (the Station), has been randomly selected for an audit of its Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) program. A copy of section 73.2080 of the Commission's rules is attached at the end of this letter for your reference.

2. You must still respond to this letter, even if the Unit is not required under our rules to have an EEO recruitment program due to the nature of its full-time workforce (because it has fewer than five full-time employees, defined as employees regularly assigned to work 30 hours a week or more). However, in your response, you are required to provide only a list of the Unit's full-time employees, identified only by job title (no names should be provided), the number of hours each is regularly assigned to work per week, and a response to Question 3(e) below. Also, in formulating your response, please see Questions 4(a)-(d) below regarding brokers and brokered stations for instructions for situations in which the applicable employment unit has fewer than five full-time employees.

3. **Audit Data Requested.** All Units must provide information for Question 3(e). If the Unit employs five or more full-time employees, provide the following information, including an explanation regarding any requested information that you are unable to provide:

(a) Copies of the Unit's two most recent EEO public file reports, described in section 73.2080(c)(6). For any stations in the Unit that have websites, provide each web address. If the Unit's most recent EEO public file report is not posted on each of these websites, indicate each relevant website and provide an explanation of why the report is not posted, as required by section 73.2080(c)(6). In accordance with section 73.2080(c)(5)(vi), provide the date of each full-time hire listed in each report provided. If the Unit does not have its own website, but its corporate site contains a link to a site pertaining to the Unit, then the Unit's most recent EEO public file report must be linked to either the Unit's site or the general corporate site, pursuant to section 73.2080(c)(6).

(b) For each of the Unit's full-time positions filled during the period covered by the above EEO public file reports, or since your acquisition of the Station, if after that period, dated copies of all advertisements, bulletins, letters, faxes, e-mails, or other communications announcing the position, as described in section 73.2080(c)(5)(iii). However, to reduce your burden of responding to this audit, if you have sent a job notice to multiple sources, you may send us only one copy of each such notice, along with a list of the sources to which you have sent the notice. In addition, indicate in your response whether you retain copies of all notices

effective and to address any problems found as a result of such analysis.

(h) In accordance with section 73.2080(c)(4), from the first day of the Station's current license term (or the date the licensee became the owner, if after that date) until the date of this letter, describe the Unit's efforts to analyze periodically its measures taken to examine pay, benefits, seniority practices, promotions, and selection techniques and tests to ensure that they provide equal opportunity and do not have a discriminatory effect. If the Unit has one or more union agreements, describe how the Unit cooperates with each union to ensure EEO policies are followed for the Unit's union-member employees and job applicants.

(i) If your entity is a religious broadcaster and any of its full-time employees are subject to a religious qualification as described in section 73.2080(a) of the rules, so indicate in your response to this letter and provide data as applicable to the Unit's EEO program. For example, for full-time hires subject to a religious qualification, only a record of the hire listed by job title and date filled, the recruitment sources used for the opening, and the source that referred the person hired must be provided. No other records are required for those hires. If five or more full-time positions are not subject to a religious qualification, the licensee must maintain and provide all records for such hires and complete the initiatives required under section 73.2080(c)(2). Otherwise, a religious broadcaster is not required to perform these initiatives.

(j) Among items we do not need in your response to this letter are copies of applicants' resumes, your company training manuals, posters, employee handbooks, or corporate guidebooks. If you believe any of the information in various corporate manuals or posters are relevant to any part of this audit letter, you may summarize what is in them. If you believe this letter requires you to provide an unusually burdensome volume of documentation, you may contact us prior to the response deadline to discuss possible ways of condensing your response.

4. **Time Brokerage.**

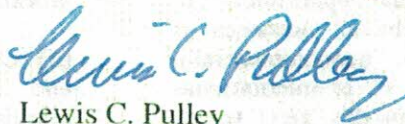
(a) **Licensee of brokered station(s).** If the Unit employs fewer than five full-time employees and any station included in it is subject to a time brokerage agreement, in addition to responding to this letter and providing us a list of the Unit's full-time employees listed by job title (and the number of hours each employee is assigned to work) and a response to Question 3(e) above, you must immediately forward a copy of this letter to the broker under each such agreement, which must respond to Question 4(b) below. If the Unit employs five or more full-time employees, the licensee must respond fully to paragraph 3 above, and also forward the letter to the broker so the broker may respond to Question 4(b) below.

(b) **Broker receiving audit letter from brokered station licensee.** If you are the broker of a station, and the station you are brokering receives an audit letter, the licensee of the brokered station must forward the audit letter to you. You should respond to the audit letter concerning EEO information relating only to your own full-time employees at the brokered station. See section 73.2080(f)(3).

such as social security numbers, home addresses, or other personally identifiable information. We do not require that employment units retain such information in their records, or that such information be provided in response to this letter.

8. If our EEO random audits sent in 2017, 2018, or 2019 included the Station, you may not have to respond to this letter. If the Station completed an audit in that timeframe, before responding, please tell us the dates of public file reports included in the Station's recent audit response, via e-mail to lewis.pulley@fcc.gov. We will then advise you if a response is necessary. Also, if your most recent license renewal application was granted after February 1, 2018, you may not need to respond to this letter. To find out if you are exempt from responding, send an e-mail to lewis.pulley@fcc.gov. Should you have any questions, please contact the EEO Staff at (202) 418-1450. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Lewis C. Pulley
Assistant Chief, Investigations & Hearings Division
Enforcement Bureau

7
Enclosure

reasonable, good faith judgment to widely disseminate information concerning the vacancy.

(ii) In addition to such recruitment sources, a station employment unit shall provide notification of each full-time vacancy to any organization that distributes information about employment opportunities to job seekers or refers job seekers to employers; upon request by such organization. To be entitled to notice of vacancies, the requesting organization must provide the station employment unit with its name, mailing address, e-mail address (if applicable), telephone number, and contact person, and identify the category or categories of vacancies of which it requests notice. (An organization may request notice of all vacancies).

(2) Engage in at least four (if the station employment unit has more than ten full-time employees and is not located in a smaller market) or two (if it has five to ten full-time employees and/or is located entirely in a smaller market) of the following initiatives during each two-year period beginning with the date stations in the station employment unit are required to file renewal applications, or the second, fourth or sixth anniversaries of that date.

(i) Participation in at least four job fairs by station personnel who have substantial responsibility in the making of hiring decisions;

(ii) Hosting of at least one job fair;

(iii) Co-sponsoring at least one job fair with organizations in the business and professional community whose membership includes substantial participation of women and minorities;

(iv) Participation in at least four events sponsored by organizations representing groups present in the community interested in broadcast employment issues, including conventions, career days, workshops, and similar activities;

(v) Establishment of an internship program designed to assist members of the community to acquire skills needed for broadcast employment;

(vi) Participation in job banks, Internet programs, and other programs designed to promote outreach generally (i.e., that are not primarily directed to providing notification of specific job vacancies);

(vii) Participation in scholarship programs designed to assist students interested in pursuing a career in broadcasting;

(viii) Establishment of training programs designed to enable station personnel to acquire skills that could qualify them for higher level positions;

(ix) Establishment of a mentoring program for station personnel;

(x) Participation in at least four events or programs sponsored by educational institutions relating to career opportunities in broadcasting;

(xi) Sponsorship of at least two events in the community designed to inform and educate members of the public as to employment opportunities in broadcasting;

(xii) Listing of each upper-level category opening in a job bank or newsletter of media trade groups whose membership includes substantial participation of women and minorities;

(xiii) Provision of assistance to unaffiliated non-profit entities in the maintenance of web sites that provide counseling on the process of searching for broadcast employment and/or other career development assistance pertinent to broadcasting;

(xiv) Provision of training to management level personnel as to methods of ensuring equal employment opportunity and preventing discrimination;

(xv) Provision of training to personnel of unaffiliated non-profit organizations interested in broadcast employment opportunities that would enable them to better refer job candidates for broadcast positions;

(xvi) Participation in other activities designed by the station employment unit reasonably calculated to further the goal of disseminating information as to employment opportunities in broadcasting to job candidates who might otherwise be unaware of such opportunities.

(3) Analyze its recruitment program on an ongoing basis to ensure that it is effective in achieving broad outreach to potential applicants, and address any problems found as a result of its analysis.

connection with such vacancies; and

(v) A list and brief description of initiatives undertaken pursuant to paragraph (c)(2) of this section during the preceding year.

(d) Small Station Exemption. The provisions of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section shall not apply to station employment units that have fewer than five full-time employees.

(e) Definitions. For the purposes of this rule:

(1) A full-time employee is a permanent employee whose regular work schedule is 30 hours per week or more.

(2) A station employment unit is a station or a group of commonly owned stations in the same market that share at least one employee.

(3) A smaller market includes metropolitan areas as defined by the Office of Management and Budget with a population of fewer than 250,000 persons and areas outside of all metropolitan areas as defined by the Office of Management and Budget.

(f) Enforcement. The following provisions apply to employment activity concerning full-time positions at each broadcast station-employment unit (defined in this part) employing five or more persons in full-time positions, except where noted.

(1) All broadcast stations, including those that are part of an employment unit with fewer than five full-time employees, shall file a Broadcast Equal Employment Opportunity Program Report (Form 396) with their renewal application. Form 396 is filed on the date the station is due to file its application for renewal of license. If a broadcast licensee acquires a station pursuant to FCC Form 314 or FCC Form 315 during the period that is to form the basis for the Form 396, information provided on its Form 396 should cover the licensee's EEO recruitment activity during the period starting with the date it acquired the station. Stations are required to maintain a copy of their Form 396 in the station's public file in accordance with the provisions of §§ 73.3526 and 73.3527.

(2) The Commission will conduct a mid-term review of the employment practices of each broadcast television station and each radio station

that is part of an employment unit of more than ten full-time employees four years following the station's most recent license expiration date as specified in § 73.1020. Each such licensee is required to file with the Commission the Broadcast Mid-Term Report (FCC Form 397) four months prior to that date. If a broadcast licensee acquires a station pursuant to FCC Form 314 or FCC Form 315 during the period that is to form the basis for the Form 397, its Report should cover the licensee's EEO recruitment activity during the period starting with the date it acquired the station.

(3) If a station is subject to a time brokerage agreement, the licensee shall file Forms 396, Forms 397, and EEO public file reports concerning only its own recruitment activity. If a licensee is a broker of another station or stations, the licensee-broker shall include its recruitment activity for the brokered station(s) in determining the bases of Forms 396, Forms 397 and the EEO public file reports for its own station. If a licensee-broker owns more than one station, it shall include its recruitment activity for the brokered station in the Forms 396, Forms 397, and EEO public file reports filed for its own station that is most closely affiliated with, and in the same market as, the brokered station. If a licensee-broker does not own a station in the same market as the brokered station, then it shall include its recruitment activity for the brokered station in the Forms 396, Forms 397, and EEO public file reports filed for its own station that is geographically closest to the brokered station.

(4) Broadcast stations subject to this section shall maintain records of their recruitment activity necessary to demonstrate that they are in compliance with the EEO rule. Stations shall ensure that they maintain records sufficient to verify the accuracy of information provided in Forms 396, Forms 397, and EEO public file reports. To determine compliance with the EEO rule, the Commission may conduct inquiries of licensees at random or if it has evidence of a possible violation of the EEO rule. In addition, the Commission will conduct random audits. Specifically, each year approximately five percent of all licensees in the television and radio services will be randomly selected for audit, ensuring that, even though the number of radio licensees is significantly larger than television licensees, both services are represented in the audit process. Upon request, stations shall make records available to the Commission for its review.