

Albert David  
2632 Kenilworth Ave., Berwyn, IL. 60402  
708-921-8091

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Federal Communications Commission  
Washington D.C. 20554

cc: Kathleen Victory, Esq.  
1300 North 17th St, Ste 1100  
Arlington, VA 22209  
and via email: VICTORY@FHHLAW.COM

Re: WFME: AM Engineering STA Application  
Family Radio  
File No. 0000234382  
Facility ID No. 29024  
Reply to Opposition

Good evening,

I am writing in reply to Family Stations, Inc's opposition to my informal objection to their AM Engineering STA Application for WFME.

47 CFR § 73.1635 (4) states that “An STA may be granted for an initial period not to exceed 180 days. A limited number of extensions of such authorizations may be granted for additional periods not exceeding 180 days per extension.” While no specific number is given as to how many extensions fall under the definition of “limited”, the situation that necessitated the initial STA was of Family Radio's own making, and continuing to grant extensions of their STA runs contrary to the entire purpose of limiting such STAs. The licensee could have applied to operate at a lower power level upon the voluntary sale of their transmitter site, which was reported on over three years ago, or at any time since. Instead, they have decided to pursue a course which amounts to frequency warehousing by continuing to apply for extensions of WFME's special temporary authority to operate at a lower power. Despite the licensee's claim of a “challenging economy”, they have not demonstrated any financial hardship which would prevent them from finding a new site, or any obstacle that would prevent them from applying to operate at their current site at 500 watts and downgrade to Class B. While the licensee made reference to a “search for a permanent home”, if a new, suitable site that could provide a greater level of service was found in the future, the licensee would still be able to apply to operate from the new site, provided they adequately protected other stations on the frequency. At no point in their opposition did the licensee make the case that a continual renewal of its STA was its only option, rather than applying for operation at 500 watts, Class B, from its current site.

Despite the claim of the licensee in their opposition, I never argued that the public would be better served with WFME completely off the air. However, there is a real harm in the lost service that WFME is not providing while operating under the terms of its STA and forcing other stations to protect service that WFME is no longer providing. The only remedy is to enforce the limit on extending STAs.

Sincerely,

*Albert David*

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