

FCC RESERVES ~~27~~ ADDITIONAL CHANNELS FOR ETV

(12), (4)

Following the pattern contained in NAEB's national plan for educational channel reservations, the FCC last week added 27 new channels for ETV in Florida, Georgia, and Kentucky. The action was a follow-up to the decision of the FCC (May 23) to consider and approve state ETV network plans, wherever feasible, without regard to the overall proceedings affecting reallocation of channels. In so doing, the Commission said, "it is placing educators on notice that any TV assignments are subject to change by Commission decision in Docket 14229 with respect to ETV needs on a national basis in which the National Association of Educational Broadcasters has filed a survey."

The newly reserved UHF channels, made possible by drop-ins or channel assignment changes, are distributed as follows: 12 in Florida, 6 in Georgia, 9 in Kentucky.

In addition, FCC, in response to request of the Board of Regents of New Mexico University, proposed a new VHF educational channel in Hatch, New Mexico, by shifting Channel 12 from Silver City.

FCC PROPOSES NEW SERVICE FOR ETV

The FCC (July 25) proposed a new class of service to promote ETV by using channels in the 1990-2110 Mc or 2500-2690 Mc band to transmit instructional programs to schools and other selected points. The new service, in effect, a multiple-addressed system to supplement ETV broadcast service, would enable a central transmitter to serve scattered schools or other locations which would ^{convert} ~~convert~~ the transmissions for viewing on conventional receivers. Sufficient channels would be available to permit sending different subjects simultaneously to different classrooms.

Costs are expected to be less than direct costs are not yet known but such an operation would be less costly than closed-circuit and microwave relay systems. FCC estimated that a single-channel system serving 25 schools would cost from one-fifth to one-third of the cost of a moderately-powered broadcasting station doing the same job.

In areas where it would be impossible to provide needed service from a ^{central station,} ~~single~~ transmitter, transmitters could be licensed as repeaters to serve localities not reached by a central station. Rules would also permit use of transmitters as relay stations to interconnect systems or to bring in programs from educational or commercial stations.

Eligibility for licensing would be restricted to non-profit organizations engaged primarily in supervising instruction. (Comments due September 17.)

FCC OVERHAULS FM BAND

On July 26 the FCC revised its FM rules to set up new coverage classes of stations and tightened mileage separations. Subsequently it will issue a table of channel allo-

cations--following the city-by-city assignment pattern of TV.

In brief, the new rules provide for: ~~Three geographic zones, three classes of commercial stations, specific protected service ranges, and co-channel spacings.~~ Changes are expected to prevent further deterioration of FM band and provide for increased growth of the medium.

Nothing was done about the matter of AM-FM duplicate programming nor was educational FM touched--an outcome which accords with the comments filed by NAEB. However, EFM stations in the three 91 Mc channels adjacent to the commercial limit must meet mileage separations affecting the three lowest commercial channels.

PROGRESS ON ETV LEGISLATION ADMINISTRATION

Officials in HEW and USOE involved in the administration of federal funds for ETV are making good progress in the development of rules and regulations governing applications for grants, and in the acquisition of staff to process them.

Dr. John Bystrom, as Assistant to the Secretary for ETV, and Dean Costin, as Deputy Assistant, have been working closely with Charles Zellers, Executive Officer of the Educational Assistance Program (USOE), in whose office the operational responsibility will reside. Together with lawyers from HEW and the FCC, Dr. Hyman Goldin, Chief, Research and Education Division of the FCC, and others have been working on formulation of application forms and statements of rules and procedures.

On July 16 this group met with staff members of NAEB and NETRC in an all-day session to review and react to the initial drafts. The suggestions and changes growing out of this meeting are being incorporated in revised drafts to be shown to a task group of ETV people representing various regional interests being brought to Washington by NETRC to meet with HEW administrators August 5-6. Later in the same month the NAEB Board is invited to a similar session and the JCEB will confer on August 21.

NAEB, which has been in almost daily contact with administrators working on the interpretation of the law, is pleased at the sincere disposition of those in charge to seek advice and counsel from the individuals and professional organizations closely connected with development of the legislation and the ETV movement. Further encouragement comes from indications that those in charge are sensitive to the intent of Congress that the bill go into effect fast, that the moneys provided are moved as rapidly as possible into the states, and that this be done with a minimum of red tape.

Meanwhile, Bystrom & Co. is ~~scurrying to prepare his exhibit~~ preparing for appearance before the House subcommittee in charge of supplemental appropriations, probably this week to obtain funds for the 1963 fiscal year.

Other major problem: securing the right man for the still unfilled post of Director of the new branch in USOE charged with processing grant applications.

RELAXATION IN RADIO OPERATOR REQUIREMENTS

The Commission proposes to relax its commercial radio operator rules for certain stations so they may use qualified operators with first-class permits on a part-time basis instead of full-time as now required. This would include non-commercial educational FM stations with power up to 25 kw. Such operators would need to be on call and be required to check the transmitter at least four times weekly. Comments due October 3.

ETV VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COLOMBIA

The Peace Corps is urgently recruiting volunteers for a seven-man staff to work

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ETV VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COLOMBIA

(Washington 25, D.C.)
The Peace Corps is recruiting volunteers to work with Colombians in developing a national ETV network. Applicants should have fluency in Spanish and be available for a two-year assignment. Positions to be filled: Dir. of Evaluation, Utilization Coordinator, Prod. Mgr., Promotion's Mgr., Graphics-Staging Dir., and two Producer-Cinematographers. →

Those accepted will undergo an intensive two-four months training program, part of which will be in Puerto Rico.

Colombia has an existing government o-and-o television network, which has been operating commercially and doing limited experiments in instructional broadcasting.

Applicants should contact Jules Pagano, Peace Corps, Washington 25, D.C.

Date for Shift to All-channel Receivers

EIA has informed FCC that a poll of manufacturers gives July 1964 as the preferred date for a cutoff date for the shift from VHF to all-channel receiver production.

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Those accepted will undergo an intensive training program of ^{two-four months} ~~two four months~~, part of which will be ~~R~~ in Puerto Rico, and Colombia.

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Scanned from the National Association of Educational Broadcasters Records
at the Wisconsin Historical Society as part of
"Unlocking the Airwaves: Revitalizing an Early Public and Educational Radio Collection."



A collaboration among the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities,
University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Communication Arts,
and Wisconsin Historical Society.

Supported by a Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant from
the National Endowment for the Humanities



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