



WOMBLE
CARLYLE
SANDRIDGE
& RICE
PROFESSIONAL LIMITED
LIABILITY COMPANY

LPTV, TV Translator and Class A Television

**FILING WINDOW for Digital Companion Channel
May 1, 2006 – May 12, 2006
and
FREEZE on Certain Applications**

January 27, 2006

To: Television Clients
From: Joan Stewart

The Commission has announced a filing window for LPTV, TV Translator and Class A Television stations to request a digital companion channel. The window will open on May 1, 2006 and end on May 12, 2006.

In order to stabilize the database prior to this filing window, the Commission will place a freeze on the filing of analog and digital minor change; analog and digital displacement and digital on-channel conversion applications by LPTV, TV Translator and Class A stations. The freeze will begin on April 3, 2006 and end on May 12, 2006.

Commission rules provide two methods by which LPTV, TV Translator or Class A stations may transition to digital operation. The first option is to request on-channel conversion. The second option is to request a digital companion channel and begin operations on that digital channel in addition to the existing analog channel. At some point in the future, the Commission will require the station to turn in one of the channels and operate the other only digitally.

Only one of these options may be selected. Those stations that have already elected on-channel conversion may not file for a companion channel. (The Commission began accepting applications for on-channel conversion in October 2005. On-channel conversion applications may be filed at any time until the freeze begins on April 3 and may be filed again once the freeze is lifted on May 12.)

During the window, licensees and permittees of LPTV, TV Translator and Class A stations may file for one digital companion channel for each analog channel. These requests must identify a channel that is consistent with existing interference protection rules (*e.g., they must protect analog and digital facilities of TV broadcast stations and the authorized analog facilities of LPTV, TV translator and Class A stations, as well as 700 MHz public safety and commercial wireless licensees*).

Although, the exact procedures to request a digital companion channel will be specified in a subsequent public notice, the Commission has indicated that it will require the technical data from a Form 346 or Form 301-CA for the requested digital channel.

GEORGIA • NORTH CAROLINA • SOUTH CAROLINA • VIRGINIA • WASHINGTON, D.C.

This memorandum is provided for general information purposes only and should not be relied upon as legal advice.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions on the upcoming filing window.

**The Communications Lawyers at
Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC**

Joan D. Stewart, (202) 857-4490, jstewart@wcsr.com

Mark Palchick, (202) 857-4411, mpalchick@wcsr.com

Gregg P. Skall, (202) 857-4441, gskall@wcsr.com

John F. Garziglia, (202) 857-4455, jgarziglia@wcsr.com

Peter Gutmann, (202) 857-4532, pgutmann@wcsr.com

Vincent A Pepper, (202) 857-4560, vpepper@wcsr.com

Howard J. Barr, (202) 857-4506, hbarr@wcsr.com

Michael H. Shacter, (202) 857-4494, mshacter@wcsr.com

Michael B. Hazzard, (202) 857-4540, mhazzard@wcsr.com

Ross Buntrock, (202) 857-4479, rbuntrock@wcsr.com

Cavan Fabris, (202) 857-4536, cfabris@wcsr.com

GEORGIA • NORTH CAROLINA • SOUTH CAROLINA • VIRGINIA • WASHINGTON, D.C.

This memorandum is provided for general information purposes only and should not be relied upon as legal advice.