

Revised Version of "The Public and Broadcasting" Public File Manual

April 25, 2008



As part of its on-going localism initiative, the FCC has revised its "Public and Broadcasting" manual, which all licensees are required to place in their local public inspection files and make available to any member of the public who requests a copy. The previous version of the manual had become hopelessly out-of-date.

The Commission has reacted to public and congressional concern that broadcasters are not fulfilling their public service obligations. The Commission views its manual as a primary means to educate the public as to the regulatory tools that are available. Its stated purpose is to outline "how you can become involved in assessing whether your local stations are complying with the FCC's rules and meeting [their] service obligations, and what you can do if you believe that they are not."

After providing an overview of the FCC's functions and its licensing procedures, the manual addresses primary issues, including programming, advertising, interference, required reports and the public file. It welcomes public participation and contains links to more detailed information. The Commission intends to periodically update its manual to reflect further changes and developments.

The current edition of the manual can be downloaded from the FCC's website at www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/decdoc/public_and_broadcasting.html. If more convenient, we would also be glad to provide you with one or more copies. In any event, **at this time all licensees are required to replace the prior edition with the current version in their local public inspection files.** In addition, a printed copy must be provided to any member of the public who requests one.

The Commission also announced the availability of two Broadcast Information Specialists to provide information to members of the public wishing to become involved in FCC processes, including complaint and petitioning procedures. One is in the Media Bureau's Audio Division, and the other in the Video Division. They are to be available via toll-free telephone numbers, fax or email. They will serve as contact points for the public, and will field inquiries concerning the status of pending applications.

If you have any questions concerning the updated "Public and Broadcasting" manual, or if you would like a mailed copy, please feel free to contact me or one of our other [Telecommunications, Cable & Broadcast professionals](#).

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