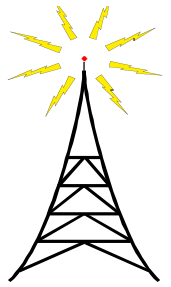




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**FCC PART 74
FREQUENCY COORDINATION**

**Daniel L. Davis, CPBE
October 22, 2003**

Many changes have been made to part 74 of the FCC rules and regulations, governing broadcast auxiliary services. Remote pickup units, studio to transmitter links, and telemetry return links are among affected services. These changes were made in order to provide some degree of standardization of licensing procedures among various radio services, while opening options for stations to utilize emerging technologies.

There have been some changes in permissible bandwidth in the RPU and STL bands. In some cases, the station license and equipment will eventually require modification, in order to remain in compliance. In some cases previously authorized stations may continue to operate with old emissions standards, but they will not be afforded the priority and interference protection of that of properly modified stations.

Probably the most important change involves frequency coordination procedures. In the past, the data on a proposed station would have been submitted informally to the frequency coordinator, for his/her stamp of approval. Then a form 313 or form 601 would have been filed with the FCC. In most cases the station would have been granted a license without question.

As of October 16, 2003 potential licensees are required to follow more formal frequency coordination procedures, as licensees in other services have had to do for some time. There are two basic steps to this process, notification and response. Following an engineering study and prior to filing an application, the applicant must notify all licensees and applicants who might potentially receive interference from the proposed new station or cause interference to the applicant's new station. Specific technical details of the proposed station must be submitted to all affected parties. All parties must respond within 30 days, indicating whether

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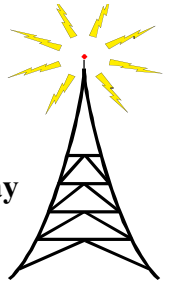
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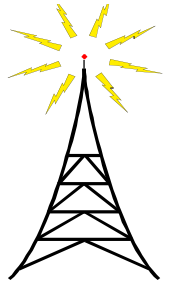
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there is a potential for interference. If there is no objection, then form 601 may be submitted to the FCC. Otherwise the potential interference problem must be resolved, before filing form 601.





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Existing stations, which were licensed using form 313, might be wise to file for modification, using form 601. The reason for this is that much more data is being collected on the new form, especially in regard to the receive antenna specifications. If this information is not added to the FCC database, the door is open for potential interference from future licensed services, causing grief for both present and future licensees.

Please review all of your broadcast auxiliary licenses for accuracy and proper association with the facility identification number of the parent broadcast station. Formerly broadcast auxiliary stations were associated with parent broadcast station call signs. As many stations have changed call signs over the years, the FCC database has become corrupt. As a result many remote pickup and STL licenses have become orphaned and will expire and automatically terminate. If this happens, it will be necessary to apply for a new license, following the new coordination procedures. The FCC had asked stations for help in updating the database a year or so ago, but some licensees either did not get the word, or they ignored the request. You might need to contact your consulting engineer and attorney for assistance.