Auction 98 Freeze Announced for Certain FM Applications and Rulemaking Filings

The Media Bureau announces a freeze, effective immediately, on the following filings (collectively, “Filings”):

- Applications proposing to modify any of the vacant non-reserved band FM allotments scheduled for Auction 98 (“Auction 98 Allotments”);
- Petitions and counterproposals that propose a change in channel, class, community, or reference coordinates for any of the vacant non-reserved band FM allotments scheduled for Auction 98; and
- Applications, petitions and counterproposals that fail to fully protect any Auction 98 Allotment.

Auction 98 Allotments are listed in Attachment A of the Auction 98 Comment Public Notice. All Filings submitted after the release of this Public Notice will be dismissed. This freeze will automatically terminate the day after the filing deadline for post-Auction 98 long form applications. This temporary freeze is designed to promote a more certain and speedy auction process.

In Auction 98, the Media and Wireless Telecommunications Bureaus will make available through competitive bidding procedures 131 vacant non-reserved band allotments in the FM broadcast service. FM minor change applications, which can now be filed on a first-come first-served basis, must protect the reference coordinates of each of these allotments.

For additional information, contact James Bradshaw or Rudy Bonacci, Audio Division, Media Bureau at (202) 418-2700.

By: Chief, Media Bureau

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1 Auction of FM Broadcast Construction Permits Scheduled for July 23, 2015; Comment Sought on Competitive Bidding Procedures for Auction 98, Public Notice, DA 15-25 (WTB/MB rel. Mar. 16, 2015) (“Auction 98 Comment Public Notice”). Bidders are also cautioned that currently pending petitions for rulemaking and open rulemaking proceedings may affect the 131 FM allotments scheduled for Auction 98.

2 47 C.F.R. § 1.401(e).