

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

MM Docket No. 95-148

In the Matter of

Amendment of Section 73.202(b), RM-8693
Table of Allotments,
FM Broadcast Stations.
(Big Sky, Montana)

REPORT AND ORDER
(Proceeding Terminated)

Adopted: January 26, 1996; Released: February 7, 1996

By the Chief, Allocations Branch:

1. The Commission has before it for consideration the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, filed by George Russell & Associates, Inc. ("petitioner"), 10 FCC Rcd 10343 (1995), requesting the allotment of Channel 283A to Big Sky, Montana, as that community's first local FM service. Petitioner filed comments supporting the allotment. No other comments were received.

2. In the *Notice* we recognized that the 1995 Rand McNally Commercial Atlas credits Big Sky with a population of 500, its own post office and zip code. The *Notice* requested that petitioner furnish additional information to demonstrate that Big Sky is a community for allotment purposes. As requested, petitioner furnished the following information. Petitioner states that Big Sky is governed by Gallatin County which forms special county districts governed by a board of trustees. These special districts provide local residents and businesses with governmental representation and services. The Gallatin Canyon Volunteer Fire Department is located in Big Sky. Big Sky has its individual telephone exchange. There is one elementary school in Big Sky, the Medical Clinic of Big Sky and two religious congregations. Big Sky is served by two local weekly newspapers and a cable television company. The community also has a Chamber of Commerce, banks, restaurants, retail outlets and grocery stores.

3. We believe that petitioner has provided us with sufficient indicia to conclude that Big Sky is a community for allotment purposes. It is an identifiable population grouping with businesses and community organizations which identify themselves with the residents of Big Sky. See *Islesboro, Maine*, 9 FCC Rcd 128 (1993).

4. Channel 283A can be allotted to Big Sky, Montana, in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements without a site restriction.¹ Since Big Sky is located in the Gallatin National Forest, petitioner was requested to address the issue of site availability. Peti-

tioner states that although surrounded by the Gallatin National Forest, the area comprising the community of Big Sky is privately owned. Currently, two FM translator stations are authorized to utilize broadcast facilities located on Lone Mountain. Petitioner indicates that it has contacted the landowner and been advised that it will be permitted to construct transmitting facilities on Lone Mountain for use by the proposed FM station.

5. We believe the public interest would be served by the allotment of Channel 283A to Big Sky, Montana, since it could provide the community with its first local FM service. Accordingly, pursuant to the authority contained in Sections 4(i), 5(c)(1), 303(g) and (r) and 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Sections 0.61, 0.204(b) and 0.283 of the Commission's Rules, IT IS ORDERED, That effective March 25, 1996, the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules, IS AMENDED for the community listed below, to read as follows:

Community	Channel No.
Big Sky, Montana	283A

6. The window period for filing applications for Channel 283A at Big Sky, will open on March 25, 1996, and close on April 25, 1996.

7. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, That this proceeding IS TERMINATED.

8. For further information concerning this proceeding, contact Kathleen Scheuerle, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

John A. Karousos
Chief, Allocations Branch
Policy and Rules Division
Mass Media Bureau

¹ The coordinates for Channel 283A at Big Sky are 45-16-03 and 111-18-04.