



**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
ENFORCEMENT BUREAU  
REGION ONE**

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April 11, 2018

John Hart  
Blackstone, Virginia

**NOTICE OF UNLICENSED OPERATION**

Case Number: EB-FIELDNER-18-00026298

On February 27, 2018, Agents from the Columbia Office of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's or Commission's) Enforcement Bureau (Bureau) investigated a complaint of an unlicensed FM station operating on the frequency 103.1 MHz near Blackstone, Virginia. Agents confirmed by direction finding techniques that radio signals on the frequency 103.1 MHz were emanating from an antenna structure (ASR Number 1035335) owned by American Tower and located at 2092 Old Shore Road, Crewe, Virginia. Later, during an interview with the Agents, you admitted that you were the operator of this station on 103.1 MHz. The Commission's records show that no license was issued for operation of a broadcast station on 103.1 MHz at this location in Crewe, Virginia.

Radio stations operating on a range of frequencies,<sup>1</sup> including 103.1 MHz, must be licensed by the FCC pursuant to Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (Act).<sup>2</sup> The only exception to this licensing requirement is for certain transmitters using or operating at a power level or mode of operation that complies with the standards established in Part 15 of the Commission's rules.<sup>3</sup> Agents measured the field strength of the signal on the frequency 103.1 MHz for the station and found that it exceeded the maximum permitted level of 250  $\mu$ V/m at 3 meters for non-licensed devices. Thus, the station was operating in violation of Section 301 of the Act.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 47 CFR § 73.201.

<sup>2</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 301.

<sup>3</sup> 47 CFR §§ 15.1 *et seq.*

<sup>4</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 301.

You are hereby warned that operation of radio transmitting equipment without a valid radio station authorization constitutes a violation of the Federal laws cited above and will subject the operator to severe penalties, including, but not limited to, *in rem* seizure of the offending radio equipment without further notice, substantial fines, and criminal sanctions, including imprisonment.<sup>5</sup>

**UNLICENSED OPERATION OF THESE RADIO STATIONS MUST BE DISCONTINUED IMMEDIATELY AND MUST NOT RESUME.**

You have ten (10) days from the date of this notice to respond with any evidence that you have authority to operate granted by the FCC. Your response should be sent to the address in the letterhead and reference the listed case number. Under the Privacy Act of 1974,<sup>6</sup> we are informing you that the Commission's staff will use all relevant material information before it to determine what, if any, enforcement action is required to ensure your compliance with FCC Rules. This will include any information that you disclose in your reply.

You may contact this office if you have any questions.

David C. Dombrowski  
Regional Director  
Region One  
Enforcement Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission

Attachments:

Excerpts from the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended  
Enforcement Bureau, "Inspection Fact Sheet", March 2005

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<sup>5</sup> See 47 U.S.C. §§ 401, 501, 503 and 510.

<sup>6</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 552a(e)(3).