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Broadcast Station Reminders: License Renewals, Pre- and Post-filing Announcements, EEO Public File Reports, and Noncommercial Ownership Reports due for Select States

January 19, 2012 by Brendan Holland

Just a reminder to broadcast stations in certain states of several upcoming February obligations. First up, **February 1st** is the deadline for **Radio Stations in Arkansas**, **Louisiana, and Mississippi** to file their FCC Form 303-S license renewal applications seeking a renewal of their broadcast licenses. (See our earlier <u>license renewal</u> <u>advisory</u> for more information about the FCC's license renewal process.) Accordingly, radio stations in those state/territories will also need to begin their **License Renewal Post-Filing Announcements on February 1st** to inform their communities of the renewal filing. Specific language for the announcements can be found on the Commission's website <u>here</u>, and the post-filing announcements continue on Feb. 16, Mar. 1, Mar. 16, April 1, and April 16.

Second, the next batch of radio license renewals -- which will be filing their renewals on April 2nd -- is **Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee**, which means that **Radio Stations** licensed to those states, must begin their **License Renewal Pre-Filing Announcements on February 1**. The precise language of the pre-filing announcements—which is again dictated by the FCC's Rules—can be found <u>here</u>. The pre-filing announcements for these stations continue on Feb. 16, Mar. 1, and Mar. 16.

Third, by February 1, **Radio and Television** Station Employment Units (SEUs) in **Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York and Oklahoma** must prepare and place in their public inspection file their **Annual EEO Public File Report**. Stations that have websites must also post the Annual Report on their website. The Annual EEO Public File Report summarizes the station's or the SEU's EEO activities during the previous 12 months, and provides information about the recruitment and outreach that the station conducted in the past year. A copy of our recent reminder advisory with more information can be found <u>here</u>. In addition, **Radio Stations in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi** will also be filing an FCC Form **396 EEO Report** by February 1 in connection with their license renewal filing.

Finally, February 1st is the deadline for *Noncommercial radio* stations in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey and New York, and *Noncommercial television* stations in Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma to prepare and file an FCC Form 323-E Biennial Ownership Report with the FCC. Please note, this filing date *applies only to*

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noncommercial radio and TV stations in the states noted above. The FCC has revised its rules regarding the reporting of ownership interests for <u>commercial</u> broadcast stations, as well as revised the commercial Ownership Report—Form 323. Accordingly, commercial stations now file biennial ownership reports on one unified filing date, which will next occur on Nov. 1, 2013. A copy of our recent reminder to noncommercial stations about the February 1 filing deadline can be found <u>here</u>.

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