

# PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission  
45 L Street NE  
Washington, DC 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500  
Internet: <https://www.fcc.gov>

DA 24-1231

Released: December 6, 2024

## MEDIA BUREAU SEEKS COMMENT ON NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED RETROACTIVE WAIVER EXTENSION

MB Docket No. 12-107

**Comments Due: December 13, 2024**

**Reply Comments Due: December 18, 2024**

The Media Bureau seeks comment on a National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) request filed November 27, 2024 for an expedited retroactive extension of the waiver of a rule that requires broadcasters to provide an aural representation of visual, non-textual emergency information, such as radar maps or other graphics, on a secondary audio stream (Request).<sup>1</sup> The waiver expired on November 26, 2024. The Media Bureau previously sought comment on a separate NAB petition filed November 15, 2024 requesting modification of that rule and waiver of the rule for 18 months (Petition).<sup>2</sup> The Request indicates that because the waiver expired during the comment period on the Petition, “numerous large television station groups have ceased the display of such weather radar maps and similar visual images,” which “will harm the public.”<sup>3</sup> Accordingly, we seek comment on whether to grant a retroactive extension of the previous waiver,<sup>4</sup> pending action on the Petition. In response to this Public Notice, commenters should limit their submissions to the question of whether the Bureau should grant a retroactive extension of the waiver, and if so, the appropriate timeframe of such a waiver. Broader issues relevant to resolution of the Petition should be addressed in response to the November 25, 2024 Public Notice.

*Filing Requirements.* All filings responsive to this Public Notice must reference MB Docket No. 12-107. Pursuant to sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission’s rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates indicated on the first page of this document. Comments may be filed using the Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). *See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121 (1998).

- Electronic Filers: Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing

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<sup>1</sup> Request for Expedited Retroactive Extension of Waiver of the National Association of Broadcasters, MB Docket No. 12-107 (filed Nov. 27, 2024) (Request); 47 CFR § 79.2(b)(2)(ii).

<sup>2</sup> Media Bureau Seeks Comment on National Association of Broadcasters Petition for Rulemaking and Extension of Waiver of Accessible Emergency Requirements, Public Notice, MB Docket No. 12-107, DA 24-1184 (rel. Nov. 25, 2024). *See also* Petition for Rulemaking and Extension of Waiver of the National Association of Broadcasters, MB Docket No. 12-107 (filed Nov. 15, 2024). Comments on the Petition are due December 26, 2024, and reply comments are due January 9, 2025.

<sup>3</sup> Request at 2.

<sup>4</sup> *See Accessible Emergency Information, and Apparatus Requirements for Emergency Information and Video Description: Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 38 FCC Rcd 4982 (2023).

the ECFS: <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/>.

- Paper Filers: Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing.
- Filings can be sent by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.
  - Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701. U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail must be addressed to 45 L Street, NE, Washington, DC 20554.
- Effective March 19, 2020, and until further notice, the Commission no longer accepts any hand or messenger delivered filings. This is a temporary measure taken to help protect the health and safety of individuals, and to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19. See FCC Announces Closure of FCC Headquarters Open Window and Change in Hand-Delivery Policy, Public Notice, DA 20-304 (March 19, 2020).

*People with Disabilities.* To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to [fcc504@fcc.gov](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or call the FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice).

*Availability of Documents.* Comments, reply comments, and *ex parte* submissions will be available via ECFS. Documents will be available electronically in ASCII, Microsoft Word, and/or Adobe Acrobat.

*Additional Information.* For additional information, contact Diana Sokolow, [Diana.Sokolow@fcc.gov](mailto:Diana.Sokolow@fcc.gov), of the Media Bureau, Policy Division, (202) 418-0588.

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