

MEMORANDUM

FCC ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF RECALCULATED PRE-SUNRISE AND POST-SUNSET AUTHORIZATIONS FOR CLASS D AM RADIO STATIONS

The FCC's rules permit certain qualifying Class D AM stations broadcast stations to operate during the two hours immediately preceding local sunrise (pre-sunrise authorization or "PSRA") and the two hours immediately following local sunset (post-sunset authorization or "PSSA"). Class D AM radio stations are those stations that are either daytime, limited time, or unlimited time with nighttime power less than 0.25 kW and an equivalent RMS antenna field of less than 107.5 mV/m at 1 kilometer. PRSA operating parameters divide pre-sunrise and post-sunset periods into 15-minute increments.

In 2007, the start date for Daylight Saving Time ("DTS") changed, so that DTS begins on the second Sunday in March and end on the first Sunday in November. Due to that change, in order to prevent the occurrence of interference to other AM stations, the FCC had to suspend existing PSRAs and PSSAs in anticipation of recalculating and issuing the revised authorized pre-sunrise and post-sunset operating powers for all eligible Class D AM stations.

However, due to an unanticipated computer problem that produced erroneous power levels on certain of these recalculated authorizations, almost immediately, in 2007 the FCC *suspended* use of its recalculated PSRAs and PSSAs until correct power levels could be computed.

Now, in a move over 15 years in the making, the FCC has implemented new tools to determine the permissible pre-sunrise and post-sunset operating parameters for eligible Class D AM stations.

Because not all eligible Class D daytime-only AM stations will elect to operate with pre-sunrise and post-sunset authority, the PSSA and PSRA authorizations will not be automatically issued, but instead, the FCC will accept and process *individual* letter requests from eligible Class D AM stations intending to operate with PSRA or PSSA.

Letter requests must include: (1) the licensee's name, station call sign, facility ID, frequency, location, and the file number of the licensed daytime facility; (2) an indication as to whether the licensee intends PSRA operation, PSSA operation, or both; and (3) a description of the method whereby any necessary power reduction will be achieved.

Once an AM station requesting PSRA and/or PSSA has received the operating parameters calculated by the Audio Division for such authorized operation, such a station may commence PSRA and PSSA operation immediately. PSSA and PRSA operating parameters divide pre-sunrise and post-sunset periods into 15-minute increments. Power levels are capped at 500 watts and may not exceed a station's authorized daytime power or critical hours power.

If you would like to submit such a request, please contact this office.