

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

In the Matter of)
Mountain Licenses, LP) Facility I.D. No. 12729
Licensee of Station KFFX(TV)) NAL/Acct. No.: 201541420011
Pendleton, Oregon) FRN: 0006175939

NOTICE OF APPARENT LIABILITY FOR FORFEITURE

Adopted: May 20, 2015

Released: May 20, 2015

By the Chief, Video Division, Media Bureau:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In this Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture ("NAL") issued pursuant to Section 503(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act"), and Section 1.80 of the Commission's Rules (the "Rules"), we find that Mountain Licenses LP (the "Licensee"), licensee of Station KFFX(TV), Pendleton, Oregon (the "Station"), apparently willfully and/or repeatedly violated Section 73.3526(e)(11)(iii) of the Rules by failing to file with the Commission in a timely manner Children's Television Programming Reports (FCC Form 398) for two quarters. Based upon our review of the facts and circumstances before us, we conclude that the Licensee is liable for a monetary forfeiture in the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000).

II. BACKGROUND

2. Section 73.3526 of the Rules requires each commercial broadcast licensee to maintain a public inspection file containing specific types of information related to station operations. As set forth in subsection 73.3526(e)(11)(iii), each commercial television licensee is required to prepare and place in its public inspection file a Children's Television Programming Report (FCC Form 398) for each calendar quarter reflecting, inter alia, the efforts that it made during that quarter to serve the educational and informational needs of children. That subsection also requires licensees to file reports with the Commission and place them in their public file by the tenth day of the succeeding calendar quarter, and to publicize the existence and location of the reports.

3. On October 1, 2014, the Licensee filed its license renewal application (FCC Form 303-S) for the Station (the "application"). The Licensee reported on its renewal application that it failed to file

1 47 U.S.C. § 503(b); 47 C.F.R. § 1.80.

2 47 C.F.R. § 73.3526(e)(11)(iii).

3 47 C.F.R. § 73.3526.

4 47 C.F.R. § 73.3526(e)(11)(iii).

5 Application for Renewal of Broadcast Station License, File No. BRC DT-20141001CGD.

two Children's Television Programming Reports in a timely manner.

III. DISCUSSION

4. The Licensee's failure to file electronically the Station's Children's Television Programming Reports for two quarters constitutes apparent willful and/or repeated violation of Section 73.3526(e)(11)(iii).

5. This *NAL* is issued pursuant to Section 503(b)(1)(B) of the Act. Under that provision, any person who is determined by the Commission to have willfully and/or repeatedly failed to comply with any provision of the Act or any rule, regulation, or order issued by the Commission shall be liable to the United States for a forfeiture penalty.⁶ Section 312(f)(1) of the Act defines willful as "the conscious and deliberate commission or omission of [any] act, irrespective of any intent to violate" the law.⁷ The legislative history to Section 312(f)(1) of the Act clarifies that this definition of willful applies to both Sections 312 and 503(b) of the Act,⁸ and the Commission has so interpreted the term in the Section 503(b) context.⁹ Section 312(f)(2) of the Act provides that "[t]he term 'repeated,' when used with reference to the commission or omission of any act, means the commission or omission of such act more than once or, if such commission or omission is continuous, for more than one day."¹⁰

6. The Commission's *Forfeiture Policy Statement* and Section 1.80(b) of the Rules establish a base forfeiture amount of \$3,000 for failure to file a required form.¹¹ In determining the appropriate forfeiture amount, we may adjust the base amount upward or downward by considering the factors enumerated in Section 503(b)(2)(D) of the Act, including "the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violation and, with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, ability to pay, and such other matters as justice may require."¹² In this case, the Licensee failed to file its Children's Television Programming Reports in a timely manner for two quarters, ranging from two months late to more than five years late. Based on our review of the facts and circumstances here, we find that the Licensee is liable for a forfeiture in the amount of \$3,000 for its apparent willful and repeated violations of Section 73.3526 (e)(11)(iii) of the Rules.

IV. ORDERING CLAUSES

7. Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED**, pursuant to Section 503(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Section 1.80 of the Commission's Rules, that Mountain Licenses LP, licensee of Station KFFX(TV), Pendleton, Oregon, is hereby **NOTIFIED** of its **APPARENT LIABILITY FOR FORFEITURE** in the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for its apparent willful and repeated violations of Section 73.3526(e)(11)(iii) of the Commission's Rules.

⁶ 47 U.S.C. § 503(b)(1)(B); *see also* 47 C.F.R. § 1.80(a)(1).

⁷ 47 U.S.C. § 312(f)(1).

⁸ *See* H.R. Rep. No. 97-765, 97th Cong. 2d Sess. 51 (1982).

⁹ *See Southern California Broadcasting Co.*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 6 FCC Rcd 4387, 4388 (1991).

¹⁰ 47 U.S.C. § 312(f)(2).

¹¹ *See Forfeiture Policy Statement and Amendment of Section 1.80(b) of the Rules to Incorporate the Forfeiture Guidelines*, Report and Order, 12 FCC Rcd 17087, 17113-15 (1997) ("*Forfeiture Policy Statement*"), *recon. denied*, 15 FCC Rcd. 303 (1999); 47 C.F.R. § 1.80(b), note to paragraph (b)(8), Section I.

¹² 47 U.S.C. § 503(b)(2)(D); *see also Forfeiture Policy Statement*, 12 FCC Rcd at 17100-01; 47 C.F.R. § 1.80(b)(8); and note to paragraph (b)(8), Section II.

8. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, pursuant to Section 1.80 of the Commission's Rules, that within thirty (30) days of the release date of this *NAL*, Mountain Licenses, LP, **SHALL PAY** the full amount of the proposed forfeiture or **SHALL FILE** a written statement seeking reduction or cancellation of the proposed forfeiture.

9. Payments of the proposed forfeiture must be made by check or similar instrument, wire transfer, or credit card, and must include the FRN referenced above. Electronic notification of payments should also be sent to Alison Nemeth at Alison.Nemeth@fcc.gov on the date payments are made. Regardless of the form of payment, a completed FCC Form 159 (Remittance Advice) must be submitted.¹³ When completing the FCC Form 159, enter the Account Number in block number 23A (call sign/other ID) and enter the letters "FORF" in block number 24A (payment type code).¹⁴

- Payment by check or money order must be made payable to the order of the Federal Communications Commission. Such payments (along with the completed Form 159) must be mailed to Federal Communications Commission, P.O. Box 979088, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000, or sent via overnight mail to U.S. Bank – Government Lockbox #979088, SL-MO-C2-GL, 1005 Convention Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63101.
- Payment by wire transfer must be made to ABA Number 021030004, receiving bank TREAS/NYC, and Account Number 27000001. To complete the wire transfer and ensure appropriate crediting of the wired funds, a completed Form 159 must be faxed to U.S. Bank at (314) 418-4232 on the same business day the wire transfer is initiated.
- Payment by credit card must be made by providing the required credit card information on FCC Form 159 and signing and dating the Form 159 to authorize the credit card payment. The completed Form 159 must then be mailed to Federal Communications Commission, P.O. Box 979088, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000, or sent via overnight mail to U.S. Bank – Government Lockbox #979088, SL-MO-C2-GL, 1005 Convention Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63101.

10. The response, if any, must be mailed to Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554, ATTN: Pamela Gallant, Associate Division Chief, Video Division, Media Bureau, Room 2-A622, and **MUST INCLUDE** the *NAL*/Acct. No. referenced above.

11. The Commission will not consider reducing or canceling a forfeiture in response to a claim of inability to pay unless the respondent submits: (1) federal tax returns for the most recent three-year period; (2) financial statements prepared according to generally accepted accounting practices ("GAAP"); or (3) some other reliable and objective documentation that accurately reflects the respondent's current financial status. Any claim of inability to pay must specifically identify the basis for the claim by reference to the financial documentation submitted.¹⁵

¹³ An FCC Form 159 and detailed instructions for completing the form may be obtained at <http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form159/159.pdf>.

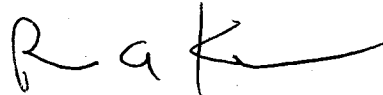
¹⁴ Questions regarding payment procedures, it should contact the Financial Operations Group Help Desk by phone at 1-877-480-3201, or by e mail at ARINQUIRIES@fcc.gov.

¹⁵ See *San Jose State Univ.*, 26 F.C.C. Rcd 5908 (2011) (noting that "[t]ypically, the Commission uses gross revenue as the primary measuring stick by which it evaluates a licensee's ability to pay. Other financial indicators may be considered....").

12. Requests for full payment of the forfeiture proposed in this *NAL* under the installment plan should be sent to: Associate Managing Director- Financial Operations, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room 1-A625, Washington, D.C. 20554.¹⁶

13. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that copies of this *NAL* shall be sent, by First Class and Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, to Mountain Licenses LP, c/o Northwest Broadcasting, Inc., 2111 University Park Drive, Suite 650, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, and to its counsel, Dennis P. Corbett, Esq., Lerman Senter PLLC, 2000 K Street, NW, Suite 600, Washington, D.C., 20006-1809.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION



Barbara A. Kreisman
Chief, Video Division
Media Bureau

¹⁶ See 47 C.F.R. § 1.1914.