WMRL

AM

BROADCASTING STATION HISTORY RECORD

First licensed .....

Call Letters WMRL

Station Location Portland, Tennessee

Name BETTER COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Transmitter Location 1.9mi. N-NEof main bus. ctr. of Portland on Hy 109, Portland, Tennessee

Main studio location To be determined, Portland, Tennessee

Form BC-126
December 1978

Authorization Record

File No.	Granted	Facilities	Expires
BP790509AF	3-26-80	1270khz 1kw DA CP FOR NEW AM STATION	3-26-81
BP-790509AF	5-28-80	CALL LETTERS ASSIGNED	& EBSA ISS
COMTEL	11-5-80	TIME IN WHICH TO RESPOND TO COM- MISSION LETTER 7-18-80 EXT. THR U 11-18-80. NO FURTHER EXT. WITH OUT PROGRESS REPORT.	

Form BC-121
May 1976

APPLICATION RECORD - BROADCASTING

Call Letters WMRL NEW AM

Name Better Communications, Inc.
Portland, Tennessee(PO Suite 111,38 Music Square E, Nashville, Tn 37203)

File No.	Dated	Application for	Action Nature	Action Date
BP-790509AF PRESS:		Construction permit for newAM on: Frequency: 1270KHz Power: 1kw DA Hours of operatin: Daytime TL: 1.9 mi NNE of main bus. ctr. of Portland on Hwy 109,Portland, Tennessee SL&RC: to be determined 36 36 11 86 32 01 MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION UNDER SECTION 1.1305 ATTY: John A. Borsari	GRANTED	3-26-80
BL-800702AI R & F PTA PRESS SEP 12	7-2-80 7-11-80 1980	Lic. to cover BP-790509AF for NEW AM STATION Atty: John A. Borsari		

BC- 9-2-80

F.C.C. - WASHINGTON, D. C.

About the History Cards …

History Cards were first used by the Department of Commerce to keep track of applications filed by, and changes to, the earliest AM broadcast stations in the early 1920s. The records were subsequently transferred to the Federal Radio Commission in 1927, and after that to the Federal Communications Commission when that agency was created in 1934. These cards gradually grew into a large card file. History Cards remained in use until the creation of the first computerized database in 1980 to track broadcast applications, the Broadcast Application Processing System (BAPS). However, the Commission did not transfer the data from the History Cards to the new system. Instead, it retained the History Cards in their original form – 3" by 5" filing cards – for reference.

In 1999, the Commission moved to a new location (445 12th Street SW), and also at that time created the successor database to BAPS, the Consolidated DataBase System (CDBS). The History Cards were transferred to microfiche by a contractor (only a few sets of microfiche exist), and the original paper cards were destroyed. The History Cards were stored on the microfiche as negative images, like those you see above. Generally, they have been left as negatives as those are often easier to read.

History Cards contain very brief entries and notes about station facilities, applications, and ownership. They are not, and never were intended to be, a comprehensive record of a station's operations. Nevertheless, they can be useful to help determine, for example, when a station first went on the air and its call letters at that time. History Card comments were generally typed onto the cards, and thus some records will show more faintly or with more smudging than others, depending on the quality of typewriter and ribbon then used. Occasional handwritten comments, corrections, and strikeouts may also be found. Cards may be incomplete, missing, or occasionally out of sequence.

The History Cards are presented here as they were copied to microfiche, to preserve this record for public use, and with the hope that they will be of value to future researchers of radio station history.