

Corsicana, Texas, requesting the substitution of Channel 300C1 for Channel 300C2 at Gainesville; the reallocation of Channel 300C1 from Gainesville to Lewisville; the substitution of Channel 300A for Channel 300C1 at Corsicana and the reallocation of Channel 300A from Corsicana to Robinson, Texas, and the modification of KECS(FM) and KICI(FM)'s authorizations accordingly. To accommodate the above noted allotments, Heftel also requests the substitution of Channel 237A for Channel 299A at Jacksboro, Texas; the substitution of Channel 240C3 for Channel 240C1 at Mineral Wells, Texas, and the modification of Station KJKB(FM) and KYXS(FM)'s authorizations to specify the change in channels at Jacksboro and Mineral Wells, respectively. See Supplementary Information, *infra*.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before May 5, 1997, and reply comments on or before May 20, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the petitioner, or its counsel or consultant, as follows: Lee W. Shubert, Richard M. Riehl, Haley, Bader & Potts, 4350 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 900, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1633 (Counsel for petitioner).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pam Blumenthal, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No. 97-91, adopted March 5, 1997, and released March 14, 1997. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC's Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, NW, Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, ITS, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 2100 M Street, NW, Suite 140, Washington, DC 20037.

All channels can be allotted to the noted communities in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements. Channel 300C1 at Lewisville will require a site restriction of 34.9 kilometers (21.7 miles) northeast. Channel 300A can be allotted to Robinson with a site restriction of 2.3 kilometers (1.4 miles) south. Channel 237A can be allotted to Jacksboro at city reference coordinates. Channel 240C3 can be allotted to Mineral Wells at the site specified in Station KYXS(FM)'s present site. The

coordinates for Channel 300C1 at Lewisville are 33-17-33 and 97-13-46. The coordinates for Channel 300A at Robinson are 31-26-58 and 97-07-27. The coordinates for Channel 237A at Jacksboro are 33-13-06 and 98-09-48.

Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that from the time a Notice of Proposed Rule Making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments.

See 47 CFR 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible *ex parte* contacts.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, see 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio broadcasting.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 97-7256 Filed 3-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-F

47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 95-83; RM-8634]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Littlefield, Wolfforth and Tahoka, TX

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: This document denies a petition for rule making by 21st Century Radio Ventures, Inc., requesting the reallocation of Channel 238C3 from Littlefield to Wolfforth, Texas, and the modification of the construction permit of Station KAIQ (FM) to specify Wolfforth as Station KAIQ (FM)'s community of license. See 60 FR 32933, June 26, 1995. The proposed reallocation was denied because retaining the allotment at Littlefield would provide a second aural reception service to 3,113 persons, which outweighs a first local transmission service to Wolfforth (population 1,941). With this action, this proceeding is terminated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pam Blumenthal, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Report and Order, MM Docket No. 95-83, adopted March 12, 1997, and released March 21, 1997. The full text of this

Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, NW., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, ITS, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 2100 M Street, NW., Suite 140, Washington, DC 20037.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio broadcasting.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 97-7444 Filed 3-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 97-96; RM-8756]

Television Broadcasting Services; Johnstown and Jeannette, PA

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission requests comments on a petition filed by Venture Technologies Group, Inc., proposing the reallocation of UHF Television Channel 19+ from Johnstown to Jeannette, Pennsylvania, as the community's first local television broadcast service. Petitioner also proposes the modification of Station WTWB-TV's license to specify Jeannette as its new community of license. Channel 19+ can be allotted to Jeannette in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements with a site restriction of 43.8 kilometers (27.2 miles) east at petitioner's requested site. The coordinates for Channel 19+ at Jeannette are North Latitude 40-10-51 and West Longitude 79-07-46. Since Jeannette is located within 400 kilometers (250 miles) of the U.S.-Canadian border, concurrence of the Canadian government has been requested.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before May 12, 1997, and reply comments on or before May 27, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the petitioner, or its counsel or consultant, as follows: Irving Gastfreund, Esq., Kaye, Scholer, Fierman, Hays & Handler, 901 15th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005 (Counsel for Petitioner).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon P. McDonald, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No. 97-96, adopted March 12, 1997, and released March 21, 1997. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, NW., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 2100 M Street, NW, Suite 140, Washington, DC 20037.

Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that from the time a Notice of Proposed Rule Making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all ex parte contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments. See 47 CFR 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible ex parte contacts.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, see 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Television broadcasting.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 97-7440 Filed 3-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AE06

Proposal To List the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse as an Endangered Species

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposes to list the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) as an endangered species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended. The Preble's meadow jumping mouse, a

small rodent in the family Zapodidae, is known to occur in only four counties in Colorado and two counties in Wyoming. Historical surveys document its former presence in five additional counties in Colorado and three additional counties in Wyoming. The Preble's meadow jumping mouse lives primarily in heavily vegetated riparian habitats. Habitat loss and degradation caused by agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial development imperil its continued existence. This proposal, if made final, would extend protection of the Act to the Preble's meadow jumping mouse.

DATES: Comments from all interested parties must be received by May 27, 1997. Public hearing requests must be received by May 9, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments or materials concerning this proposed rule may be sent to the Colorado Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. The complete file for this rule is available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Colorado Field Office, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 361, Lakewood, Colorado.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: LeRoy W. Carlson, Field Supervisor, Colorado Field Office (see **ADDRESSES** section), (telephone 303/275-2370).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) is a small rodent in the family Zapodidae and is one of 11 subspecies of the species *Z. hudsonius*, the meadow jumping mouse (Kruttsch 1954, Whitaker 1972). The family consists of small to medium-sized mice with long tails and long feet adapted for jumping. Kruttsch (1954) reviewed taxonomy and distribution of the genus *Zapus* in North America and recognized three living species, *Z. hudsonius*, *Z. trinotatus*, and *Z. princeps*. Fitzgerald et al. (1994) described *Z. hudsonius* as greyish to yellowish-brown in color with an indistinct mid-dorsal band of darker hair and paler sides, large hindlegs and hindfeet, and a sparsely haired tail that accounts for more than 60 percent of the total length.

The Preble's meadow jumping mouse (Preble's) was first discovered and described from Loveland, Larimer County, Colorado, by A.E. Preble in 1895 (Preble 1899, cited by Kruttsch 1954). All records are from southeastern Wyoming and eastern Colorado. The coloration of Preble's was described by

Kruttsch (1954) as "color dull, back from near Clay Color to near Tawny-Olive with a mixture of black hair forming poorly defined dorsal band; sides lighter than back from near Clay Color to near Cinnamon-Beff; lateral line distinct and clear Ochraceous-Beff; belly white, sometimes faint wash of clear Ochraceous-Beff; tail bicolored, brownish to light brownish-black above, grayish-white to yellowish-white below" (capitalized color terms refer to a scientific standard, while lower case terms reflect common usage). Kruttsch (1954) also provided a technical description of the skull of Preble's, which can prove critical to its identification.

A source of confusion is the similarity of appearance between the Preble's meadow jumping mouse and *Z. p. princeps*, a subspecies of the western jumping mouse that also occurs in portions of Colorado and Wyoming. In general, *Z. hudsonius* may be distinguished from *Z. princeps* by average external size and cranial size (Kruttsch 1954, Whitaker 1972). Preble's may be distinguished from *Z. p. princeps* by a less pronounced mid-dorsal band, smaller average total length, and a skull that is small and light with a narrower braincase and smaller molars (Fitzgerald et al. 1994). Since coloration of the mid-dorsal band and total length are not definitive characteristics, skull measurements are most useful for positive identification (Aaron Ellingson, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, in litt. 1995). *Ranges of the Preble's meadow jumping mouse and Z. p. princeps* are not thought to overlap in Colorado but may overlap in Wyoming (Armstrong 1972).

Kruttsch (1954) commented on the presence of physical habitat barriers and lack of known intergradation between the Preble's meadow jumping mouse, known only from eastern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming, and other identified subspecies of *Z. hudsonius* ranging to the east and north. Among recognized subspecies, Kruttsch found that Preble's most closely resembled *Z. h. campestris* from northeastern Wyoming, but summarized differences in coloration and skull characteristics. Kruttsch concluded that considerable differences existed between Preble's and related subspecies. Hafner et al. (1981) described an additional subspecies *Z. h. luteus* present in New Mexico and Arizona and differentiated it from Preble's. This subspecies was not addressed by Kruttsch since it was previously considered *Z. p. luteus*, a subspecies of the western jumping mouse.