

Federal Communications Commission

§0.451

Reports, or Pike and Fischer Communications Regulation. Commission decisions and other Commission documents not entitled formal policy statements or interpretations may contain substantive interpretations and statements regarding policy, and these are published as part of the document in the FCC Record, FCC Reports or Pike and Fischer Communications Regulation. General statements regarding policy and interpretations furnished to individuals, in correspondence or otherwise, are not ordinarily published.

(e) If the documents described in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this section are published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, the FCC Record, FCC Reports, or Pike and Fischer Communications Regulation, they are indexed, and they may be relied upon, used or cited as precedent by the Commission or private parties in any manner. If they are not so published, they may not be relied upon, used or cited as precedent, except against persons who have actual notice of the document in question or by such persons against the Commission. No person is expected to comply with any requirement or policy of the Commission unless he or she has actual notice of that requirement or policy or a document stating it has been published as provided in this paragraph. Nothing in this paragraph, however, shall be construed as precluding a reference to a recent document that is pending publication.

(f) Subparts A and B of this part describe the functions of the staff and list the matters on which authority has been delegated to the staff. All general instructions to the staff and limitations upon its authority are set forth in those subparts or in decisions of the Commission published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Instructions to the staff in particular matters or cases are privileged and/or protected and are not published or made available for public inspection.

(g) To the extent required to prevent a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, or to prevent disclosure of information required or authorized to be withheld by another statute, the Commission may delete identifying details or confidential information when it makes available or publishes any

document described in this section. The justification for any such deletion will be fully explained in a preamble to the document.

§0.451 Inspection of records: Generally.

(a) *Records which are routinely available for public inspection.* Sections 0.453 and 0.455 list those Commission records which are routinely available for public inspection and the places at which those records may be inspected. Procedures governing requests for inspection of such records are set out in §0.460.

(b) *Records which are not routinely available for public inspection.* Records which are not listed in §0.453 or §0.455 are not routinely available for public inspection. Such records fall into two categories.

(1) The first category consists of those records or kinds of records listed in §0.457 and of particular records withheld from public inspection under §0.459. The Commission has determined that there is a statutory basis for withholding these records from public inspection. In some cases, the Commission is prohibited from permitting the inspection of records. In other cases, the records are the property of another agency, and the Commission has no authority to permit their inspection. In still other cases, the Commission is authorized, for reason of policy, to withhold records from inspection, but is not required to do so.

(2) The second category consists of records that are not listed in §0.453, §0.455, or §0.457 and have not been withheld from inspection under §0.459. In some cases, these records have not been identified for listing. In other cases (*e.g.*, the general correspondence files), the Commission is unable to determine either that all records in a class should be routinely available for inspection or that all records in that class should not be routinely available for inspection, and individualized determination is required.

(3) Procedures governing requests for inspection of these records are set forth in §0.461.

(4) Procedures governing demands by competent authority for inspection of these records are set forth in §0.463.

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(5) Except as provided in §§0.461 and 0.463, or pursuant to §19.735-203 of this chapter, no officer or employee of the Commission shall permit the inspection of records which are not routinely available for public inspection under §0.453 or §0.455, or disclose information contained therein.

(c) *Copies.* Section 0.465 applies to requests for copies of Commission records which are routinely available for public inspection under §0.453 and §0.455 and those which are made available for inspection under §0.461. Sections 0.467 and 0.465(c)(3) apply to requests for certified copies of Commission records.

(d) *Search and copying fees.* Section 0.465(c)(2) prescribes the per page fee for copying records made available for inspection under §0.460 or §0.461. Section 0.466 prescribes fees to cover the expense of searching for and reviewing records made available for inspection under §0.460 or §0.461. Review of initial fee determinations under §§0.467 through 0.470 and initial fee reduction or waiver determinations under §0.470(e) may be sought under §0.461(j).

NOTE TO PARAGRAPH (d): The Commission may require advance payment pursuant to §0.469 before releasing documents.

§0.453 Public reference rooms.

The Commission maintains the FCC Reference Information Center as its public reference room at its offices in Washington, DC. Much of the information available from the public reference room may also be retrieved from the Commission's main Web site at <http://www.fcc.gov> and its electronic reading room at <http://www.fcc.gov/foia/e-room.html>:

(a) *The Reference Information Center.* Maintains files containing the record of all docketed cases, petitions for rule making and related papers. A file is maintained for each docketed hearing case and for each docketed rule making proceeding. Cards summarizing the history of such cases for the years before 1984 are available for inspection. Information summarizing the history of such cases for the years from 1984 through present is available online on the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).

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(b) *Broadcast Services.* The following files and documents are available, including:

(1) Applications for radio and television broadcast station construction permits, licenses, modifications of facilities, license renewal, assignments and transfer of control, including any Commission correspondence or rulings pertaining to those applications;

(2) Petitions to deny, informal objections, and complaints directed against the stations and/or station applications;

(3) Ownership reports filed by licensees pursuant to §73.3615 of this chapter;

(4) Television network application contracts, radio and television time brokerage agreements, and other documents required to be filed under §73.3613 of this chapter;

(5) Children's television programming reports filed by commercial television licensees pursuant to §73.3526 of this chapter;

(6) Annual DTV ancillary/supplementary services reports filed by commercial and non-commercial educational digital television licensees pursuant to §73.624 of this chapter;

(7) Station requests for declaratory rulings, special temporary authorizations, and other waivers;

(8) Annual employment reports filed by licensees and permittees of broadcast stations pursuant to §73.3612 of this chapter; and

(9) Responses from licensees to random audits of their Equal Employment Opportunity programs conducted pursuant to §73.2080 of this chapter.

(c) *Common Carrier Services*, including:

(1) Annual reports filed by carriers under §43.21 of this chapter;

(2) Reports of proposed changes in depreciation rates filed by carriers under §43.43 of this chapter;

(3) Rate-of-return reports filed by price-cap and rate-of-return incumbent local exchange carriers under §65.600 of this chapter;

(4) All applications for common carrier authorizations acted upon by the Enforcement Bureau, and related files;

(5) All formal and informal complaints against common carriers filed under §1.711 through §1.735 of this