

boosters also be permitted to deliver programming to communities or areas located beyond the protected area of the station whose signal is being retransmitted (*i.e.*, where technically feasible, as an alternative delivery mechanism to a digital TV translator)? Could such use of boosters enable more efficient spectrum use (*e.g.*, in areas of hilly or mountainous terrain where spectrum opportunities are limited due to a high density of analog translators)?

30. The Commission also asks if it should apply to digital boosters the interference protection methodology and technical standards we adopt for digital LPTV and TV translator stations (*e.g.*, protected signal contour, effective radiated power limits, emission mask and interference protection D/U ratios and methodology, excluding co-channel protection of the station whose signal is retransmitted by the booster).

31. The *NPRM* seeks comment on an appropriate call sign suffix for digital TV translator and LPTV stations. The Commission also seeks comment on what fees should apply to digital LPTV and TV translator stations. The Commission also proposes extending broadcast auxiliary service (BAS) eligibility provisions to permit digital LPTV and TV translator stations to operate on the same bands and for the same purposes as analog LPTV and TV translators, subject to the BAS rules governing digital operations. The Commission also seeks comment on whether a particular digital service contour would be more appropriate with regard to defining the area for locally produced programming of digital Class A TV stations.

32. The *NPRM* also seeks comments on a request by Association of Public Television Stations, the Public Broadcasting Service and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting that the Commission: (1) Facilitate the relocation of analog translators that provide a noncommercial service; (2) facilitate the transition of existing or relocated analog noncommercial educational translators to digital operation; and (3) make additional technical modifications to its rules to support the licensing of translators and repeaters.

Administrative Matters

33. *Comments and Reply Comments.* Pursuant to sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments on or before November 25, 2003 and reply comments on or before December 26, 2003. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by

filing paper copies. See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24,121 (1998).

Written comments by the public on the proposed information collections are due November 25, 2003. Written comments must be submitted by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on the proposed information collection(s) on or before November 25, 2003.

34. Comments filed through ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, however, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form <your e-mail address>." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply. Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appear in the caption of this proceeding, commenters must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number. Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). The Commission's contractor, Vistrionix, Inc., will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE., Suite 110, Washington, DC 20002. The filing hours at this location are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's

Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

35. Parties who choose to file by paper should also submit their comments on diskette. These diskettes should be submitted to: Wanda Hardy, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Room, 2-C207, Washington, DC 20554. Such a submission should be on a 3.5 inch diskette formatted in an IBM compatible format using MS Word 97 for Windows or compatible software. The diskette should be accompanied by a cover letter and should be submitted in "read only" mode. The diskette should be clearly labeled with the commenter's name, proceeding (including the docket number in this case, MM Docket No. 02-113, type of pleading (comment or reply comment), date of submission, and the name of the electronic file on the diskette. The label should also include the following phrase "Disk Copy—Not an Original." Each diskette should contain only one party's pleadings, preferably in a single electronic file. In addition, commenters must send diskette copies to the Commission's copy contractor, Vistrionix, Portals II, 445 12th Street SW., CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554.

36. In addition to filing comments with the Secretary, a copy of any comments on the information collections contained herein should be submitted to Shirley Suggs, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554, or via the Internet to Shirley.Suggs@fcc.gov, and to Jeanette Thornton, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10236 NEOB, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503 or via the Internet to Jeanette.I.Thornton@omb.eop.gov.

37. Comments and reply comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Center, Federal Communications Commission, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554. Persons with disabilities who need assistance in the FCC Reference Center may contact Bill Cline at (202) 418-0270, (202) 418-2555 TTY, or bcline@fcc.gov. Comments and reply comments also will be available electronically at the Commission's Disabilities Issues Task Force Web site: <http://www.fcc.gov/df>. Comments and reply comments are available electronically in ASCII text, Word 97, and Adobe Acrobat.

38. This document is available in alternative formats (computer diskette, large print, audio cassette, and Braille). Persons who need documents in such formats may contact Martha Contee at