



## Public Participation in the License Renewal Process

All broadcast station licenses are granted by the Commission for a term of eight years. Currently, all radio station licenses are scheduled to expire between 2019 and 2022. All television station licenses are scheduled to expire between 2020 and 2023. Broadcast station licensees must file an application using new Schedule 303-S for license renewal four months prior to the expiration date of the station's license, in accordance with a schedule set forth in the Commission's Rules. Internet links to that schedule are provided in the next paragraph. Licensees also must file a Broadcast Equal Employment Opportunity Program Report (new Schedule 396) at the same time and reference that filing in each station's license renewal application. During the license renewal process, viewers and listeners of the stations whose licenses are up for renewal may participate in the process either by filing a petition to deny or an informal objection against a renewal or by filing positive comments about a broadcaster's service. The petition to deny is more formal and must meet certain procedural requirements discussed below.

### License Renewal Filing Dates; License Expiration Dates

Radio and television station license renewal dates are based on the location (state, territory, etc.) of the station's community of license, not the station's transmitter site location. All radio and television station licenses in a particular state expire on the same date. States are then placed into geographical groups and all of the radio or television station licenses in a particular geographical grouping of states expire on the same date. For example, all radio station licenses in North and South Carolina will expire on December 1, 2019. Similarly, all television station licenses in North and South Carolina will expire on December 1, 2020. Links to license renewal application filing dates and license expiration dates for radio and television stations, arranged by state, can be found at <https://www.fcc.gov/media/radio/broadcast-radio-license-renewal-dates-by-state> and <https://www.fcc.gov/media/television/broadcast-television-license-renewal-dates-by-state>, respectively.

### Petitions to Deny / Informal Objections

A petition to deny or an informal objection to a radio or television license renewal application may be filed AFTER the filing of the license renewal application. Notice of the filing of license renewal applications will still be displayed in the Commission's *Daily Digest*, <https://www.fcc.gov/proceedings-actions/daily-digest> in releases titled "*Applications.*"

Notices of the filing of license renewal applications will be posted in the *Public Notices* listed at <https://www.fcc.gov/media/radio/broadcast-radio-license-renewal-dates-by-state> for radio. The Commission's website, <https://www.fcc.gov/media/television/broadcast-television-license-renewal>, will also post notices of television station license renewal applications prior to the commencement of the next television license renewal cycle in 2020.

Additionally, because all license renewal applications will be filed through the Commission's Licensing and Management System (LMS) (<https://enterpriseefiling.fcc.gov/dataentry/public/tv/publicAppSearch.html>), that system will contain records pertaining to the license renewal applications, including the electronically filed applications themselves.

The last day for filing petitions to deny is ONE MONTH PRIOR to the license expiration date. For example, the petition to deny deadline date for radio stations licensed to communities in North and South Carolina is November 1, 2019 and November 1, 2020 for television stations, one month prior to the December 1, 2019 and December 1, 2020 license expiration dates for radio and television stations in those states.

An exception to this petition deadline is where the LAST DAY falls on a Saturday, Sunday, holiday, or on a date that the Commission is closed for business, in which case the LAST DAY is extended to the first full business day thereafter. For example, the license expiration date for a radio station in Virginia is October 1, 2019. September 1, 2019 is a Sunday and Monday, September 2, 2019 is a Federal holiday. In this instance, the LAST DAY that a petition to deny can be filed is Tuesday, September 3, 2019. Petitions to Deny are considered filed only upon their receipt by the Commission at either of the addresses below, NOT when they are mailed or postmarked.

#### Procedure for Filing Petitions to Deny

Petitions to deny broadcast station license renewals should be filed electronically through the Commission's LMS electronic filing system. or mailed or delivered to one of the following FCC addresses:

#### **U.S. Postal Service Mail**

Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

ATTN: Audio Division, License Renewal Processing Team  
OR  
Video Division, License Renewal Processing Team

#### **Messenger or Hand Delivered Filings, and Filings Delivered by Other Than USPS (between 8am and 7pm)**

FCC Mail & Distribution Window  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

ATTN: Audio Division, License Renewal Processing Team  
OR  
Video Division, License Renewal Processing Team

## Commercial Overnight Mail, EXCEPT United States Postal Service

Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
9050 Junction Drive  
Annapolis Junction, MD 20701

**Petition to Deny Requirements.** First, to file a petition to deny, a person must be a “party in interest” and have “standing.” Generally, that means the person must have more than a passing interest in the station. The individual must be a competitor or a regular listener or viewer or have some other contact with the station that gives the petitioner a real stake in outcome of the renewal process. Also, a petition must be supported by an affidavit of a person or persons with personal knowledge of the allegations of fact contained in the petition. Additionally, a petition to deny license renewal must be “timely,” that is, as noted above, it must be filed at least one month prior to the license expiration date. A petition to deny must also be served (by mail or e-mail) on the station licensee or the Contact Representative listed in the license renewal application, and it must contain a certification that a copy of the petition was so served. Failure to include either the affidavit or service certification may result in dismissal of the petition to deny as procedurally defective.

**Procedure for Filing Informal Objections.** A person or entity opposing the grant of a radio or television station's license renewal application may file an informal objection against the license renewal application at any time prior to staff action on the license renewal application. An informal objection is less formal than a petition to deny, but some requirements still apply. It may take the form of a letter signed by the objector and mailed or delivered to one of the FCC addresses above. An informal objection need not contain the affidavit required for a petition to deny, but it must be served on the station or its listed Contact Representative. It should, however, contain sufficient information to establish any alleged violation. Additionally, an informal objection not received by the time the station’s license renewal application has been granted by the Commission will not be considered. Informal objections should be filed electronically through the Commission’s LMS system.

**Filing Positive Comments.** Affirmative comments concerning a licensee’s service during the prior license term should be filed by the petition to deny deadline date and may be filed through the LMS.

### Additional Suggestions for Filers

To help the staff expeditiously associate a petition to deny, informal objection or positive comment with the proper license renewal application, a petition to deny, informal objection or positive comment should identify (1) the station's call sign, city and state, (2) the station's facility ID number, and (3) the license renewal application file number. This information, which is available from the license renewal application itself or in LMS through the Commission’s website, <https://enterpriseefiling.fcc.gov/dataentry/public/tv/publicAppSearch.html>, should be listed on the first page of the submission.