

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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MEDIA BUREAU
OFFICE OF BROADCAST LICENSE POLICY
AUDIO DIVISION
APPLICATION STATUS: (202) 418-2730
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July 20, 2005

Thomas J. Kigin
Minnesota Public Radio
45 East Seventh Street
Saint Paul, MN 55101

In re: Request for Experimental
Authority
Minnesota Public Radio
WIRN, Buhl, MN
Facility ID No.: 78080

Dear Mr. Kigin:

The staff has under consideration the request received on June 23, 2005, for experimental authority to transmit a hybrid digital signal incorporating multiple digital channels. The experimental authority is requested pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 73.1510 to allow testing a main and one or more supplemental digital audio channels within the station's service area.

WIRN proposes to test a modified version of the hybrid IBOC system which the Commission has authorized for interim use.¹ The IBOC system under test, known as "*Tomorrow Radio*SM," splits the digital bitstream into two or more separate channels.

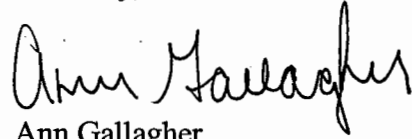
The test requires modification of the audio coder system to divide the digital audio stream into primary and one or more supplemental channels. The occupied bandwidth of the digital sidebands will remain as specified in Appendix B of the IBOC Order. The hybrid signal will be transmitted via the station's authorized antenna, and will not require a change in the station's authorized ERP.

Accordingly, the requested experimental authority for the hybrid digital operation described above IS HEREBY GRANTED. This authority is specifically conditioned on the lack of objectionable interference. A report detailing the methodology employed and the results obtained must be submitted within **ninety** days following the conclusion of the experimental operation pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 73.1510(d). A comprehensive report of *Tomorrow Radio*SM test results may be submitted in

¹ Radio stations do not require experimental authority for normal hybrid IBOC operations. See *Digital Audio Broadcasting Systems and Their Impact on the Terrestrial Radio Broadcast Service*, 17 FCC Rcd 19990 (2002) ("IBOC Order").

lieu of reports by individual stations. This experimental authority expires on July 20, 2006. Any request for extension of this authority should be filed at least thirty days prior to this expiration date. **Additionally, such a request must include an interim version of the aforementioned report that details the progress of the experimental program as of the filing date.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Gallagher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping tail on the "g".

Ann Gallagher
Audio Division
Office of Broadcast License Policy
Media Bureau