

RADIO LICENSE RENEWAL IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER....IS YOUR STATION READY!

By John George, SCBA ABIP Inspector

License renewal for your radio station(s) is this summer and the FCC may have a surprise for you. In the new license renewal form, there are several sections that require certification of your Public File documents and RF radiation requirements. **Not having a complete Public File will result in a major fine and delay of your renewal!** Many stations haven't looked at their Public File in years and may be in for a rude awakening at renewal time. The Public File is one of the most important files in your broadcast facility and frequently overlooked.

Now is the time to review your Public File using the FCC Self-Inspection Checklists (<http://www.fcc.gov/eb/bc-chklsts/>) and to participate in the SCBA's Alternative Broadcast Inspection Program (ABIP). As a participant in this program, the SCBA will send an "inspector" to your facility for a thorough FCC "like" inspection. The inspector will review the Public File and check your technical operations including EAS and the transmitter site. The inspector will work with your staff to correct any issues and when your station passes, the SCBA will issue a Certificate of Compliance. The certificate protects your station from random FCC inspections for a period of three years. For stations that don't pass inspection on the first round, their violations are usually minor and can be easily corrected within a short window of time. A call to the SCBA office and you can be set-up for an inspection after completing some simple paperwork. The inspection fee is very reasonable and is based on the type of facility being inspected. For more information on the program, visit <http://www.scba.net/abip.htm>

Here is a list of the most common violations found during recent inspections:

Public File:

Missing or Incomplete "Quarterly Programs and Issues"
Missing Coverage Map
Missing EEO Annual Filings

Technical Operations:

Tower Light Failures
Tower Fencing
Improperly Completed Station Logs
Missing Annual NRSC Measurement for AM Station

EAS:

Improper Logging of EAS Activity
Monitoring Incorrect Stations

The FCC recently issued a Notice of Violation totaling \$20,000 for failure to allow inspection of the Public File and a \$10,000 fine for failure to have properly working EAS equipment. Can your station afford to pay this type of fine? Call the SCBA office today at (803) 732-1186 and sign up for the Alternative Broadcast Inspection Program.

In addition to enrolling in ABIP, you and your station's staff can prepare for license renewal by attending the Radio License Renewal Workshop on Wednesday, March 23 at AT&T in Columbia.

The workshop is free to member stations and the registration deadline is Friday, March 18.

For more information on the workshop and to download a registration form, go to <http://www.scba.net/documents/PromotionCopyforMarch2011Workshop.pdf>