

BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

In the Matter of
The LORAIN COUNTY RADIO CORPORATION,
for coastal harbor facilities at
LORAIN, OHIO (WMI),
Construction Permit.
LORAIN, OHIO (WMI),
Renewal of License.
LORAIN, OHIO (WMI),
Construction Permit.
PORT WASHINGTON, WIS. (WAD),
Modification of Construction Permit.
DULUTH, MINN. (WAS),
Modification of Construction Permit.

DOCKET Nos. 5590, 5589,
5544, 5545, and 5546

March 5, 1941

Frank C. Dunbar and Frank C. Dunbar, Jr., on behalf of the applicant; *Horace L. Lohnes and Joseph E. Keller* on behalf of Donnelley Radio Telephone Co.; *Manton Davis, Frank W. Wozencraft and Wilson Hurt* on behalf of Radiomarine Corporation of America; *Lee C. Hinslea and John T. Haswell* on behalf of Central Radio Telegraph Co.; *Gilbert R. Johnson* on behalf of Lake Carriers' Association; *Marshall S. Orr* on behalf of the Commission.

PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. These dockets were heard in a single proceeding before an employee of the Commission. Docket 5589 involves that part of the application for renewal of license of coastal harbor Station WMI, located at Lorain, Ohio, which requests authority to operate on the frequencies 6470 and 11370 kilocycles. In Docket 5590, the applicant requests authority to make changes in equipment at Station WMI and add the frequency 8585 kilocycles. In Dockets 5544, 5545, and 5546, authority is requested to make changes in equipment and add the frequency 4282.5 kilocycles at the following licensed stations,

respectively: Station WMI (Lorain, Ohio), Station WAD (Port Washington, Wis.), and Station WAS (Duluth, Minn.).

2. The frequencies 4282.5, 6470, 8585, and 11370 kilocycles were not available under the Commission's Rules and Regulations for assignment to coastal harbor stations at the time the applications were originally designated for hearing. Subsequent to the docketing of these matters, but before any hearing was had thereon, the Commission, on its own motion, ordered a public hearing (Docket 5816) for the purpose of determining the general question as to whether some frequencies above 3000 kilocycles should be made available for marine radiotelephone service on the Great Lakes to provide communication over greater distances. In a report dated April 13, 1940, the Commission concluded that its coastal harbor rules should be amended to make available for assignment to Great Lakes stations only, certain frequencies above 3000 kilocycles. The general purpose of such modification of the rules, it was stated in the report, would be to compensate for reduced range on the lower frequencies due to transmission over fresh water and the exceptional static conditions experienced during some months. In accordance with this decision, the Commission, on April 16, 1940, amended sections 7.58 (c) and 7.101 of the rules to make available for assignment to coastal harbor stations in the Great Lakes area the frequencies 4282.5, 6470, and 8585 kilocycles, in addition to the regular coastal harbor frequencies in the 2- to 3-megacycle band.

3. Of a total of 485 United States vessels of 1,000 gross registered tons, or over, operating on the Great Lakes, 320, or approximately 66 percent, have their operating offices in Cleveland. The Lorain station, WMI, is approximately 25 miles from the downtown area of Cleveland. In the month of October 1939, Station WMI handled a total of 4,342 messages between vessels and shore points, of which 3,523 originated or terminated in Cleveland. In addition to those messages handled through Station WMI, some 67 messages originating or terminating in Cleveland were handled by the other Lorain stations at Port Washington and Duluth. Of the total of 3,590 Cleveland messages, 561 originated or terminated on ships in Lake Michigan, 1,052 originated or terminated on ships in Lake Superior, and 1,085 originated or terminated on ships in Lake Huron. It is obvious, therefore, that a large percent of the messages were transmitted over distances in excess of 100 miles.

4. Station WMI, Lorain, Ohio, is regularly licensed to operate on frequencies in the 2- to 3-megacycle band. It also has temporary authority to use the frequencies 4282.5, 6470, 8585, and 11370 kilocycles. The characteristics of frequencies in the band between 2 and

3 megacycles are such that fairly reliable service at mid-day is restricted to 100 miles or less. At other times of the day the range might be greater and at nighttime the range is much greater. During the month of October 1939, over one-half of the traffic through station WMI at Lorain was handled on the frequency 6470 kilocycles. In the same period, a total of 64.8 percent of all messages at this station were handled on the two frequencies 6470 and 8585 kilocycles.

5. The frequency 4282.5 kilocycles had not been authorized for use by the Lorain stations at the time of the hearing. However, it is anticipated that the range of this frequency will average 200 miles and will to a considerable extent relieve the congestion on 6470 kilocycles. It is probable that about half the present bulk freighters on the Lakes will be equipped, eventually, to receive on the frequency 4282.5 kilocycles.

6. The Lorain station, WAS, at Duluth, Minn., furnishes a radiotelephone service on frequencies in the 2- to 3-megacycle band between Duluth and vessels on Lake Superior. Duluth is the largest port on the Great Lakes from the standpoint of tonnage handled. A large percentage of the radiotelephone traffic is in the nature of messages from vessels to dock officials and others interested in information concerning precise arrival times. It is highly desirable that this information reach Duluth several hours in advance of the arrival of the ships, and during office hours.

7. Duluth is over 350 miles from the farthest points on Lake Superior. The present reliable service range of Station WAS, when using frequencies in the 2-megacycle band, is not over 100 miles. By the use of the frequency 4282.5 kilocycles, a fairly reliable range of 200 miles might be expected, thereby increasing the service area of the station by approximately 100 miles under average daytime conditions.

8. The Lorain Port Washington station, WAD, is located about 105 miles north of Chicago on the west shore of Lake Michigan and about 25 miles north of Milwaukee, Wis. It is licensed to operate on frequencies in the 2- to 3-megacycle band. With the frequency 4282.5, the range of the station would be increased to about 200 miles, which would enable the station to give a much improved service in northern Lake Michigan. This is an area of substantial lake traffic and one that now receives only intermittent service.

CONCLUSIONS

1. There exists a need for the frequencies 4282.5, 6470, and 8585 kilocycles at Station WMI, Lorain, Ohio.

2. The frequency 11370 kilocycles is not available, under the rules, for assignment to coastal harbor stations, and the applicant has not

shown such need for the frequency at Station WMI as to warrant a waiver of the rules.

3. There is a need for the frequency 4282.5 at Station WAS, Duluth, Minn.

4. There is a need for the frequency 4282.5 at Station WAD, Port Washington, Wis.

5. Public interest, convenience, and necessity will be served by granting the applications, except for the request for 11370 kilocycles in Docket 5589.

The proposed findings and conclusions of the Commission were adopted as the "Findings of Fact and Conclusions of the Commission" on May 28, 1941.

(FLY, Chairman, not participating.)

8 F. C. C.