

**Before the
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
Washington, DC**

Notice of Information Collection Being Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval)
Sections 73.3526 and 73.3527, Local Public Inspection Files; Sections 76.1701 and 73.1943, Political Files)

) OMB Control No. 3060-0214

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**COMMENTS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS
ON INFORMATION COLLECTION SUBMISSION TO OMB**

The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB)¹ submits these comments in response to the above-captioned notice of the Federal Communications Commission's (Commission or FCC) Information Collection submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).² By this submission, the FCC is requesting a three-year extension of a currently-approved information collection regarding the local public inspection files

¹ NAB is a nonprofit trade association that advocates on behalf of local radio and television stations and broadcast networks before Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and other federal agencies, and the courts.

² See Information Collection Being Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval, Notice and request for comments, 76 Fed. Reg. 50730 (August 16, 2011) (Notice).

and political files of broadcast licensees and permittees. Local public inspection and political files are required to be maintained by each radio and television station and to be accessible by the public.

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995,³ this notice seeks comment concerning: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the FCC's functions, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection on the respondents; and (e) ways to further reduce the information collection burden on small businesses with fewer than 25 employees. *Id.*

With the above PRA standards in mind, NAB submitted comments in response to the Commission's earlier PRA notice on its local public file requirements.⁴ We emphasized that requiring thousands of radio and television stations to place and retain in their public files records that are available to the public on the FCC's website may well be an unnecessary burden.

We continue to believe that requiring broadcast stations to retain in a public file documents already available on the FCC website is an unnecessary burden and one inconsistent with the letter and the spirit of the PRA. To minimize the burden on local stations (particularly those with fewer than 25 employees) consistent with the PRA,

³ 44 U.S.C. §§ 3501-3520.

⁴ Notice of Public Information Collection(s) Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission, Comments Requested, 76 Fed. Reg. 21739 (April 18, 2011).

OMB and the Commission should reconsider whether every station needs to collect and retain such otherwise easily accessible information.⁵ This information includes:

- A copy of applications tendered for filing with the FCC and related materials;
- A copy of service contour maps, submitted with any application;
- A copy of the most recent, complete Ownership Report (FCC Form 323) filed with the FCC;
- A copy of the Broadcast Equal Employment Opportunity Program Report (FCC Form 396) filed with the FCC;
- A copy of the most recent edition of the manual entitled “The Public and Broadcasting”;
- Quarterly Children’s Television Programming Reports (FCC Form 398).

The burden imposed on thousands of local broadcast station respondents to collect this and other public and political file documentation, by the Commission’s own estimate, is 2,176,815 hours.⁶ OMB and the Commission can minimize some of this burden by removing requirements to retain redundant information, listed above and

⁵ NAB notes in particular that many radio stations are small businesses with fewer than 25 employees. Requiring such small entities to collect and retain information readily available to the public on the FCC’s website appears especially burdensome and unnecessary.

⁶ Notice at 50730.

available on the FCC's website. NAB urges OMB and FCC action in this regard to reduce unnecessary burdens, especially on small businesses, consistent with the PRA.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie Schulte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jane Mago
Jerianne Timmerman
Valerie Schulte

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BROADCASTERS**
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September 15, 2011