



January 29, 2019

FCC Further Extends Certain Deadlines, Including Online Public File Submissions for Fourth Quarter 2018 Materials

FCC Further Extends Certain Deadlines in Wake of Re-Opening After Government Shutdown; OPIF Filings Impacted

The FCC is further revising—and extending—some of its filing and other deadlines in the wake of the partial government shutdown. In a [Public Notice](#) (“Notice”) released on Tuesday afternoon, January 29, the Commission announced that it is further extending certain deadlines because parties did not have full access to some electronic systems and databases during the suspension of operations due the government shutdown. These new deadlines supersede and replace the previously extended deadlines that we told you about.

As explained below, the Notice provides a new deadline for Online Public Inspection File (“OPIF”) submissions that would have been due during the shutdown (including fourth quarter 2018 materials), among other revised deadlines.

Here is the guidance in the Notice of most relevance to broadcasters:

- **OPIF Filings.** All quarterly filings that would have been due to be filed in stations’ Online Public Inspection Files by January 10, as well as all non-quarterly filings that were required to be placed in a station’s OPIF between January 3 and January 28, will now have a deadline of February 11, 2019.

In addition, any filings that were made to the OPIF during the shutdown will need to be resubmitted to the proper Online Public Inspection File site, available at <https://publicfiles.fcc.gov/>. In other words, if you think that you successfully uploaded any documents to your OPIF in January 2019, prior to the FCC re-opening

on January 28, you would be well-advised to check the “public” side of your OPIF to ensure that the materials are, indeed, visible.

- *Other Filings Due January 3 to January 7.* Other filings that would have been due between January 3 and January 7 will be due on January 30, 2019.
- *Other (Non-OPIF) Filings Due January 8 to February 7.* Any other filings that would otherwise be required to be filed between January 8 and February 7—except for those OPIF filings mentioned above—will be due on February 8, 2019.
- *Special Temporary Authority.* Any STA (“Special Temporary Authority”) that would have expired from January 3 through January 29 is now extended until February 8, 2019 (except for STAs that relate to the repack or other auction-related activities—as we previously advised, repack filings, requirements and deadlines were unaffected by the shutdown).
- *Filing Fees and Other Payments.* Due dates for fee payments that can only be made through the FCC’s Fee Filer System and that otherwise fell due between January 3 and February 7 are extended according to the same schedule set forth above for regulatory filings.

That is, such fee payments that fell during January 3 and January 7 are due on January 30, 2019; and such fee payments that would have been due between January 8 and February 7 are due February 8, 2019. Note: If your station filed a fee-able application in one of the FCC’s filing systems during the period that the FCC was closed, you will now need to go back to that system to make the fee payment electronically.

All other payments remain due on their originally scheduled dates.

- *Transaction Shot Clocks.* The Commission’s informal 180-day shot clocks for review of transactions that were suspended on January 2, 2019, as a result of the shutdown are restarted as of January 29, 2019. For example, if January 2 was day 101 of the shot clock for a particular transaction, January 29 is day 102.
- *ULS Applications and Notifications.* All Universal Licensing System (ULS) applications and notifications that were originally due to be filed in accordance with the Commission’s rules between January 3 and February 8 are now due on February 8, 2019. ULS is the FCC’s filing system for many broadcast auxiliary licenses including STLs and other fixed links, weather radars, microwaves, two-way radios, wireless microphones, etc.

Given that the Commission is reacting in real-time to how the reopening of the government is affecting regulated entities in real-time, it is possible that deadlines will further change, and stations may wish to consult their communications counsel with particular questions about when a given filing is due.

The Commission says that its Bureaus and Offices may issue further guidance on revised filing deadlines.

We'll keep you posted.

If you have any questions concerning the information discussed in this memorandum, please contact your communications counsel or any of the undersigned.

Tim Nelson, Editor

BROOKS, PIERCE, McLENDON,
HUMPHREY & LEONARD, L.L.P.

Mark J. Prak
Marcus W. Trathen
David Kushner
Coe W. Ramsey
Charles F. Marshall
Stephen Hartzell
Julia C. Ambrose
Elizabeth E. Spainhour
J. Benjamin Davis
Timothy G. Nelson
Amanda M. Whorton
Patrick Cross

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