June 1, 2020

**VIRGINIA TELEVISION**

**LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATIONS**

**DUE TODAY!**

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*In this issue, please find information about*

*Deadlines*: [TODAY June 1: Virginia TV Station License Renewal Applications Due](#_Virginia_Television_Stations)

[TODAY June 1: EEO Form 396 Due for Virginia TV Stations](#_Virginia_Television_Stations)

[TODAY June 1: Virginia TV Stations Must Broadcast First Post-Filing Announcement](#_Virginia_Television_Stations’)

[ASAP After Renewal Application Filing: TV Translator Announcement Must be Published](#_Virginia_TV_Translator)

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# \*\* **Virginia Television Station License Renewal Applications are DUE TODAY, June 1, 2020** \*\*

#  By now, we hope that all Virginia television station licensees have filed—or are planning to file today—their license renewal applications. In addition to providing a final reminder regarding today’s deadline for Virginia television stations to file their renewal applications and their EEO Program Reports (Schedule 396), we write to remind television broadcasters regarding the requirements to broadcast post-filing announcements (beginning today) and, if applicable, to publish post-filing announcements for their TV translator stations.

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# Virginia Television Stations Must File License

# Renewal Applications and EEO Report Schedule 396

# by TODAY, **June 1, 2020**

 It’s deadline day! This is a reminder that license renewal applications for Virginia television stations are due no later than **June 1, 2020**.

 Also due on **June 1** for Virginia television stations, in conjunction with the license renewal application, is the Broadcast Equal Employment Opportunity Program Report on FCC Form 2100, Schedule 396 (formerly known as FCC Form 396). The requirement to file the Schedule 396 in the FCC’s LMS (Licensing and Management System) applies to all full-power, Class A, and low power television stations (but not to TV translator stations), no matter how many full-time employees they have.

 **NOTE**: Virginia television stations will need to file the Schedule 396 Report in LMS **before** filing their license renewal application (also in LMS). Why? Because the FCC’s LMS filing system will generate a file number upon receipt of the Schedule 396 that stations must then insert into the relevant field in the license renewal application.

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# Virginia Television Stations’ Post-Filing

# Announcements Must Begin Today, Too!

Given the importance of timely filing your license renewal application, it may be easy to forget that Virginia television stations are required to broadcast their post-filing renewal announcements—beginning today, June 1, 2020. (Remember, although the FCC recently adopted an Order that will change the text, timing, and frequency of the required post-filing renewal announcements, the new rules set forth in that Order have not yet taken effect. The following summarizes broadcasters’ obligations under the currently applicable rules.)

Recall that the post-filing announcements are designed to alert viewers to the fact that the FCC will be considering a broadcaster’s application for license renewal. The theory behind these announcements is that persons having information about matters pertaining to the station’s operation will be made aware of the FCC’s interest in such information at renewal time.

For Virginia television stations, the post-filing announcements must be broadcast on the following dates: June 1, June 16, July 1, July 16, August 1, and August 16, 2020.

Three of the post-filing announcements must air between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and/or 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. local time, one must air between 9:00 a.m. and noon local time, one must air between noon and 4:00 p.m. local time, and one must air between 7:00 p.m. and midnight local time.

A certificate of broadcast of the **post-filing announcements** must be signed and uploaded in each station’s online public inspection file after the last announcement is broadcast on August 16, 2020, and no later than **August 23, 2020**.

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# Virginia TV Translator Licensees Must Publish Renewal Filing Announcement “Immediately”

TV translator stations are not required to broadcast separate post-filing announcements. However, upon filing a renewal application, each TV translator licensee must immediately thereafter publish a notice of the filing in a daily, weekly, or biweekly newspaper of general circulation in the community or area served by the TV translator station notifying the public of its renewal application filing. (As mentioned above, although the FCC recently adopted an Order that will change broadcasters’ written notice obligations, including by moving written notice online, those new rules have not yet taken effect. The following summarizes broadcasters’ obligations under the currently applicable rules.)

If there is no daily, weekly, or biweekly newspaper published or having circulation in the community or area served by the translator, the licensee should post the notice in a location frequented by the general public, such as the local post office or other public place, and keep a copy of the local public notice for reference.

Here is the text required for the TV translator notice:

*On [insert date], [insert licensee name] filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission for renewal of license of TV translator station [insert call sign], which is licensed to serve [insert community of license].  The station is licensed to transmit from a site at [insert transmitter site location], on a frequency of [insert channel], with an effective radiated power of [insert ERP].  The station rebroadcasts [insert full-power station call sign and its city and state of community of license], which operates on a frequency of [insert full-power station channel].  Individuals who wish to advise the FCC of facts relating to the renewal application and to whether this TV translator station has operated in the public interest should file comments with the FCC by September 1, 2020, by writing to the FCC, Washington, DC 20554.*

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For specific details regarding the topics discussed above, stations may wish to contact their communications counsel or call the VAB Hotline.

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*Tim Nelson, Editor*

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This Legal Review should in no way be construed as legal advice or a legal opinion on any specific set of facts or circumstances. Therefore, you should consult with legal counsel concerning any specific set of facts or circumstances.

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