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I would like to bring you up-to-date on the status of the development of our new frequency coordination manual. As you may recall, much of the work to date on the preparation of this manual has been done under pressure of impending events contemplated by the FCC. Last Fall we felt it might be beneficial if the finished document could be published before the Commission put together their Proposals for Rulemaking then under consideration.

Much has transpired since that time. J. Rhett McMillian has done a masterful job in preparing a first draft of those portions of the document other than the technical section. At our January meeting the Board approved this draft and a tentative schedule for its implementation.

The Board then met with Charlie Higginbotham and Morgan O'Brien of the FCC at Costa Mesa in March. They commented favorably on the document and expressed considerable interest in the source and content of the yet-to-be developed technical section.

Shortly after the Costa Mesa Board meeting, a number of developments took place. First, it became apparent that an adequate technical section would require considerable contributions from the National Office. Because of the pressing workload of present project schedules, the National Office will not be able to have a draft of this section completed until a month or so after the National Conference. In addition, significant personnel changes at the FCC have caused an indeterminate slippage of their schedule for Proposed Rulemaking regarding frequency coordination.

As a result, the Board, at our May meeting in Topeka, Kansas, made several important decisions pertaining to the development and implementation of the revised frequency coordination manual. These are:

Page 2.

- a) APCO needs a revised frequency coordination manual. This need is independent of whether or not the FCC continues on its present course or develops new policies. Therefore, the Board decided that the revised frequency coordination manual should be developed in light of present frequency coordination policies and procedures. Should the Commission change these policies at some time in the future, we can revise the manual accordingly, if appropriate.
- b) The manual will be used by APCO for some time to come; therefore, it is more important to do a comprehensive job now than to meet some arbitrary schedule. As a result, the Board has revised the implementation schedule to reflect the capabilities of the National Office to contribute to the technical portion of this document. This means that it will be the end of September before the first draft of the technical section will be available for review by the appropriate APCO participants. At such time as this section (and other portions of the document that may be deemed appropriate) are reviewed and approved, the document will be implemented. Hopefully, this will be accomplished prior to December of this year.

This change in schedule provides an increased opportunity for the incorporation of additional comments and suggestions in all portions of the document. If there are any parts of the manual that you feel need revision or enhancement, please send your suggestions at your earliest convenience to Ernie Landreville at the National Office.

The frequency coordination manual is one of the most important documents in the APCO library. I believe that the above approach to its preparation will greatly increase the usefulness and suitability of the revised edition. We are determined that the next frequency coordination manual that we publish reflect the best thinking of APCO and its membership. We look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions for its improvement.

Thanks again for your help.

Regards,

Jerry Campbell  
President

DDK/p

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