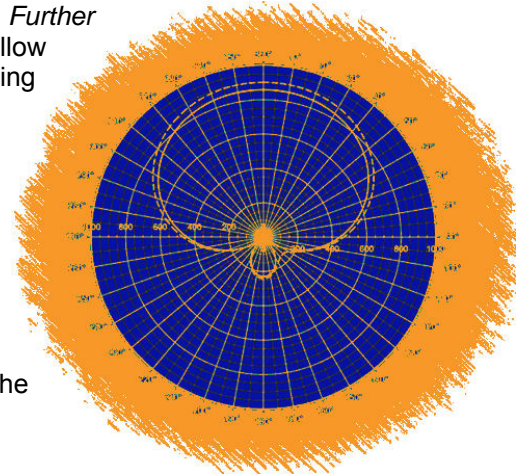




## AM Directional Antenna Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Last September the FCC issued a *2nd Report & Order (R&O)* and *2nd Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM)* which for the first time will allow AM broadcasters to use computer modeling (in conjunction with sampling system verification) for performance verification of AM directional antennas (DAs). As a consequence of the 2nd FNPRM being published in the Federal Register on December 11, 2008, the comment and reply comment deadlines have now been established as January 12, 2009 and February 9, 2009, respectively.

Issuance of the 2nd R&O and 2nd FNPRM was undertaken as part of the FCC's proceeding in MM Docket No. 93-177, *An Inquiry Into the Commission's Policies and Rules Regarding AM Radio Service Directional Antenna Performance Verification*. The rules proposed in the 2nd FNPRM focus on the impact of nearby towers on AM antenna patterns, and are essentially those proposed in May 2007 by the *AM Directional Antenna Verification Coalition*, a self-described group of "...broadcasters, broadcast engineering consultants and broadcast equipment manufacturers, all of whom are experts in the science of AM DA design and have extensive experience in the adjustment and maintenance of AM DAs."



Specifically, in the 2nd FNPRM the Commission is requesting comment on rules proposed by the *Coalition* which are attached to the 2nd FNPRM as Appendix E, pertaining to the use of computer modeling (using moment method programs) to assess the effects of nearby towers on AM antenna patterns. Some of the specific questions being asked include the following:

- Should the proposed rules apply to construction of all communications towers above a specified height, not just towers requiring notice to the Federal Aviation Administration and tower registration under Part 17?
- Should the Commission apply the proposed rules to the owners of structures that are not otherwise subject to Commission licensing processes, i.e., with regard to structures such as towers that do not require registration and which no Commission licensee or applicant uses or proposes to use?
- Should the Commission prohibit applicants from proposing and licensees from using a tower when the owner has not complied with notice and detuning requirements?
- Regarding the proposed rule's exclusion of short towers from consideration, should the Commission reduce the proposed threshold height of 45 electrical degrees to 36 degrees (this based on a technical filing provided by the Association of Federal Communications Consulting Engineers)?
- Comments are sought on the types of structures, such as buildings, that should be categorically excluded from the proposed rules;
- Should any final rule on this issue, if adopted, include a provision requiring tower proponents to protect the AM station upon submission of a credible demonstration that the tower affects the AM pattern?

Two contacts within the FCC have been identified for questions regarding this matter: Ann Gallagher, [Ann.Gallagher@fcc.gov](mailto:Ann.Gallagher@fcc.gov), and Susan Crawford, [Susan.Crawford@fcc.gov](mailto:Susan.Crawford@fcc.gov), both of the Media Bureau, Audio

Division, (202) 418-2700. Broadcasters interested in filing comments in this proceeding may do so electronically by accessing the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) at [www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/](http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/). Filers should follow the instructions provided on the website for submitting comments, and should include their full name, U.S. Postal service mailing address, and the applicable docket number: MM Docket No. 93-177. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by email—to get filing instructions, send an e-mail to [ecfs@fcc.gov](mailto:ecfs@fcc.gov), and include the words “get form” in the body of the message. A sample form and instructions will be sent in response.

