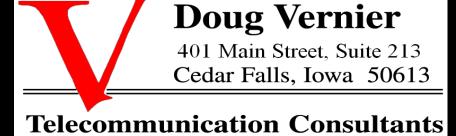




Strategies for

FM Translators & Boosters The Broadcasters Clinic





Area Translators







- Translators may not extend the protected contour area of a translator licensed to a commercial band primary station.
- NCE and non-co-owned commercial station translators may extend the translator's contour beyond the primary station's protected contour.
- Primary FM station's protected contours are the 54 dBu for class B, 57 dBu for class B1 and 60 dBu for all other classes.
- All Translators are secondary stations and may be booted off the air by full service stations

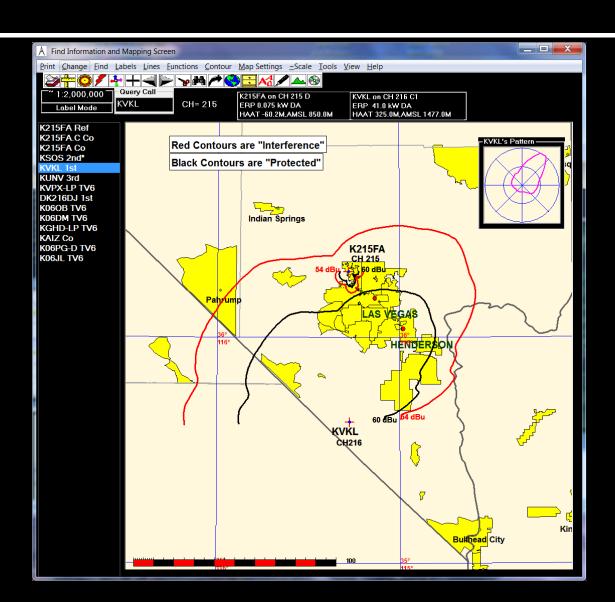
Sec. 74.1235 Power Limitations

```
(1) For FM translators located east of the Mississippi River
  or in Zone I-A as described in § 73.205(b)
      Radial HAAT (meters) Maximum ERP (MERP in watts)
  Less than or equal to 32
                                                   250
  33 to 39
                                                   170
  40 to 47
                                                   120
  48 to 57
                                                   80
  58 to 68
                                                   55
                                                   38
  69 to 82
  83 to 96
                                                   27
  97 to 115
                                                   19
  116 to 140
                                                   13
  Greater than or equal to 141
                                                   10
```

Highest of 12 radials = HAAT

(2) For FM translators located in all	other areas:
Radial HAAT (meters) Maximum	ERP (MERP in watts)
Less than or equal to 107	250
108 to 118	205
119 to 130	170
131 to 144	140
145 to 157	115
158 to 173	92
174 to 192	75
193 to 212	62
213 to 235	50
236 to 260	41
261 to 285	34
286 to 310	28
311 to 345	23
346 to 380	19
381 to 425	15.5
426 to 480	13
481 to 540	11
Greater than or equal to 541	10

Protected and Interference Contours



Fill-in Translators – Sec. 74.1201

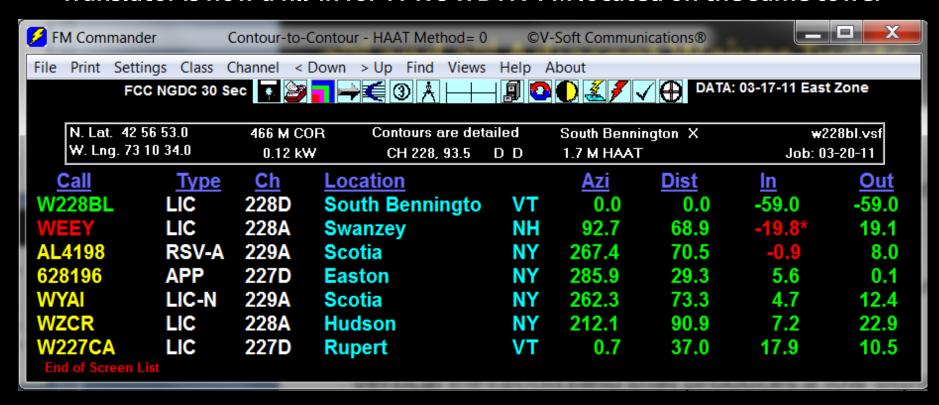
- (h) Fill-in area. The area where the coverage contour of an FM translator or booster station is within the protected contour of the associated primary station
- AM Fill-in area. The area within the lesser of the 2 mV/m daytime contour of the AM radio broadcast station being rebroadcast and a 25mile (40 km) radius centered at the AM transmitter site.

Interesting twists and facts

- Translators that are fill-in may transmit up to 250 watts without antenna height limitations as long as they do not extend the protected contour of the primary station.
- The 6o dBu of a 25o watt fill-in translator at 2000' HAAT has same coverage as a class B or C2 station.
- FM translators and fill-in translators may run a primary station's multicast programming, if desired.
- NCE band translators may be fed with alternate delivery but not commercial band translators unless they are fill in translators and then not with satellite.
- Translators may not cause "real" interference to a regularly listen to full-service station or translator.

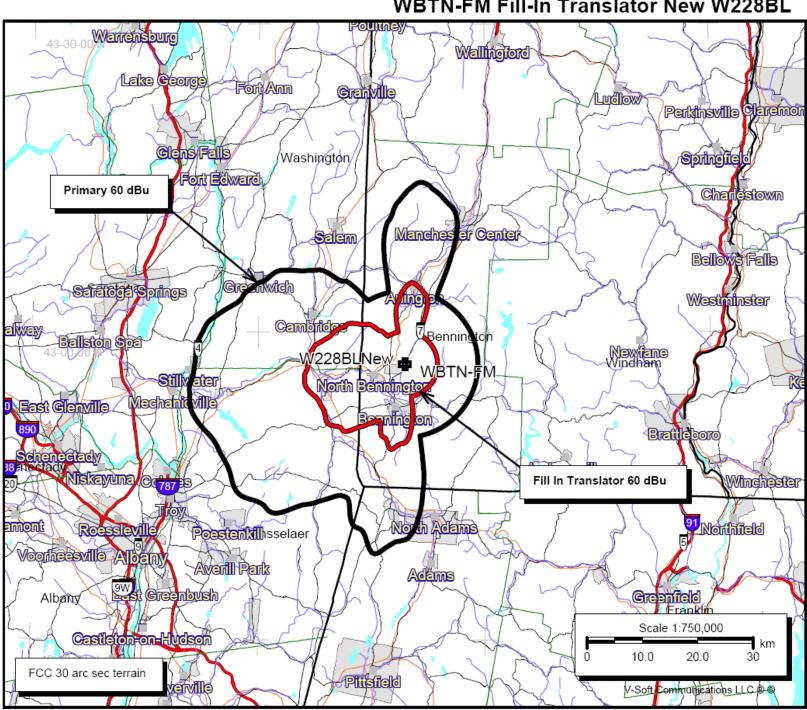
Using HD2 to feed a translator

Translator is now a fill-in for VPR's WBTN-FM located on the same tower

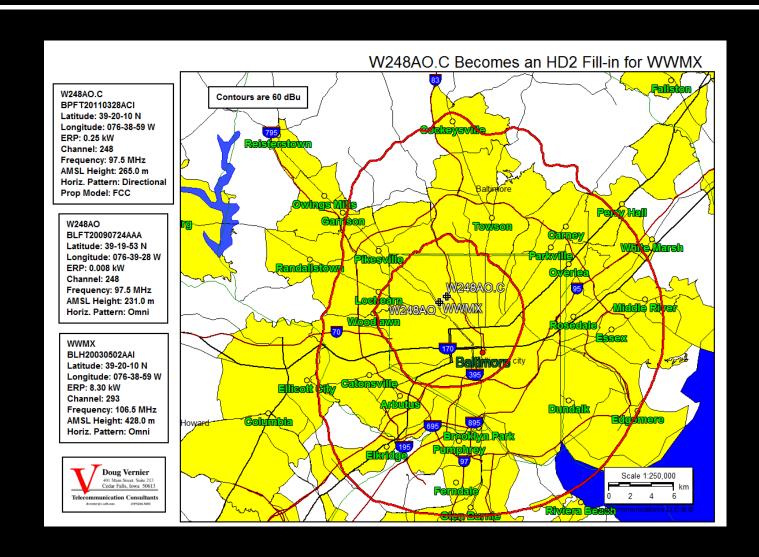


Translator's power limit is set by application 628196. VPR also does this in Manchester, VT, with plans to do it in two other markets.

WBTN-FM Fill-In Translator New W228BL



Religious Translator Relays Top-40 HD2



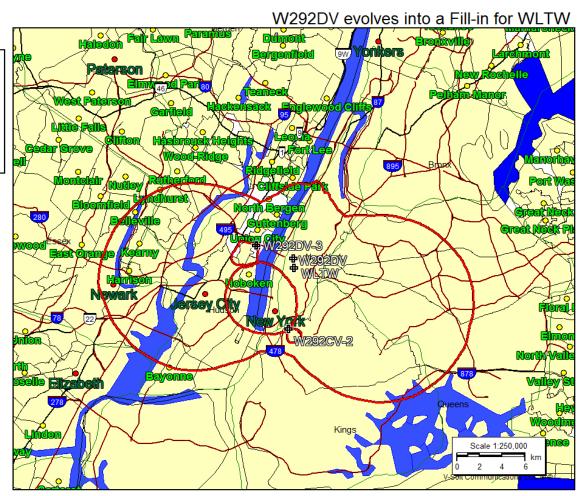
W292DV - Fill-in- HD2 Clear Channel

W292DV
BLFT20110503AEA
Latitude: 40-45-22 N
Longitude: 073-59-12 W
ERP: 0.099 kW
Channel: 292
Frequency: 106.3 MHz
AMSL Height: 286.0 m
Horiz. Pattern: Directional
Prop Model: FCC

WLTW BLH19940203KA Latitude: 40-44-54 N Longitude: 073-59-10 W ERP: 6.00 kW Channel: 294 Frequency: 106.7 MHz AMSL Height: 429.0 m Horiz. Pattern: Omni



Contours are 60 dBu

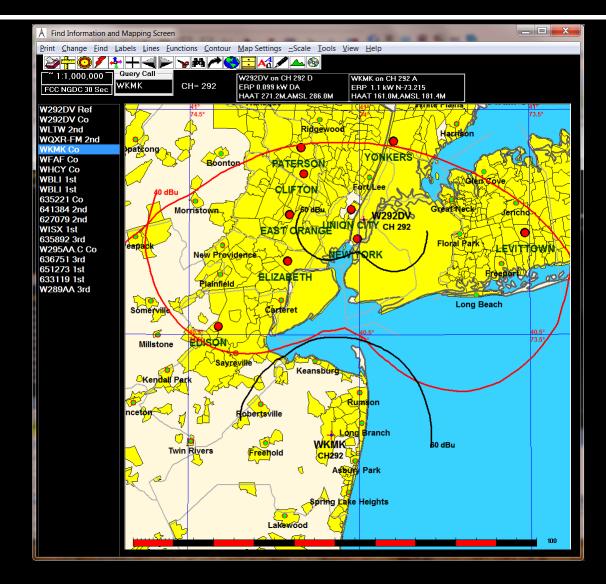


Shows outgoing co-channel contour overlap

FM Commander Contour - HAAT Method = 0 ©V-Soft Communications®									
<u>File Print Settings Class Channel < Down > Up Find Views Help About</u>									
FCC NGDC 30 Sec Park									
N. Lat. 40 45 22.0 286 M COR Contours are d				New York NY X w292dv.vsf					
W. Lng. 73 59 12.0 0.099 kW DA CH 292, 106.3 MHz, D D				łz, D D	271.2 M HAAT Job: 06-05-11				
<u>Call</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Ch</u>	<u>Location</u>		<u>Azi</u>	<u>Dist</u>	<u>ln</u>	<u>Out</u>	
W292DV	LIC-D	292D	New York	NY	0.0	0.0	-30.2	-30.2	
WLTW	LIC	294B	New York	NY	176.9	0.9	-13.0*	-64.4*	
WQXR-FM	LIC	290B1	Newark	NJ	176.9	0.9	-10.2*	-37.1*	
WKMK	LIC-N	292A	Eatontown	NJ	188.5	53.7	-30.3*	-3.6	
WFAF	LIC	292A	Mount Kisco	NY	28.4	54.3	-19.9*	10.1	
WHCY	LIC	292A	Blairstown	NJ	291.7	89.0	-1.0	15.4	
WBLI	LIC-D	291B	Patchogue	NY	82.8	80.2	11.8	1.0	
WBLI	LIC-D	291B	Patchogue	NY	82.8	80.2	11.8	1.0	
635221	APP	292D	Midland Park	NJ	333.7	29.3	2.4	2.9	
641384	APP-D	290D	Edison	NJ	233.8	42.5	27.2	41.7	
627079	APP-D	290D	Edison	NJ	233.8	42.5	27.3	41.8	
WISX	LIC	291B	Philadelphia	PA	233.9	125.8	34.7	28.9	
635892	APP	289D	Franklin Townsh	NJ	234.1	52.9	37.4	45.6	
W295AA	CP	292D	Middletown	NY	335.2	85.6	45.7	56.0	
636751	APP-D	289D	Bedford Hills	NY	26.5	55.0	48.4	53.0	
651273	APP	291D	Monroe	NY	350.0	70.1	49.9	51.8	
633119	APP-D	293D	Trenton	NJ	228.6	79.2	57.0	52.7	
More									

W292DV and its Interference



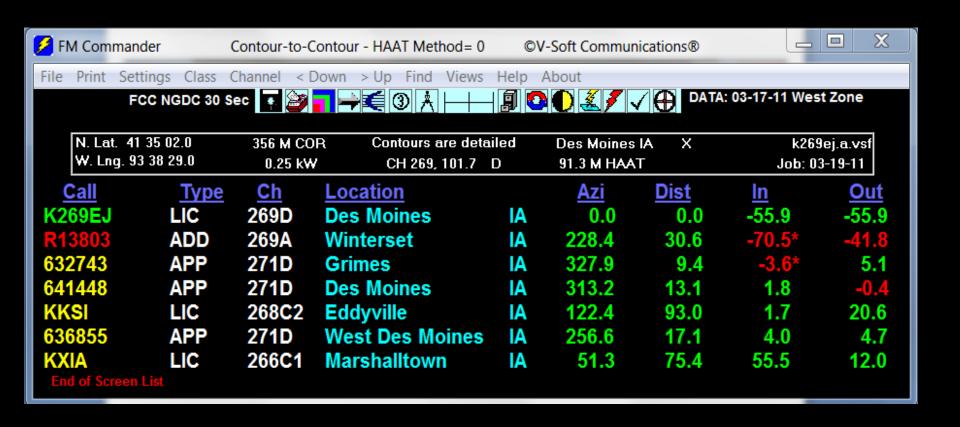


Frequency Issues



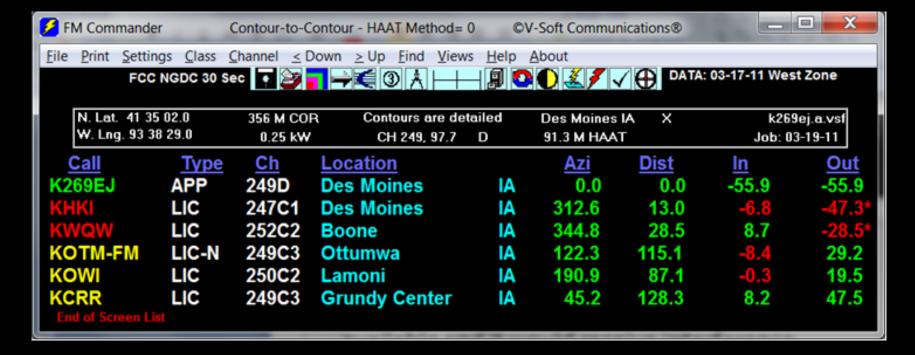
- With commercial and public station move-ins and new allocations, translator may find the need to move the channel to avoid causing or receiving interference
- FCC rules say that a change of channel greater than the 3rd adjacent would be a major change. (I.F. changes, i.e. 53 or 54 channel jumps are allowed)
- FCC says it has become "kinder and gentler" on channel moves greater than 3 channels and they will consider waiver requests of the major change rule for translators that are "displaced" by powerful stations landing on the translators' channels

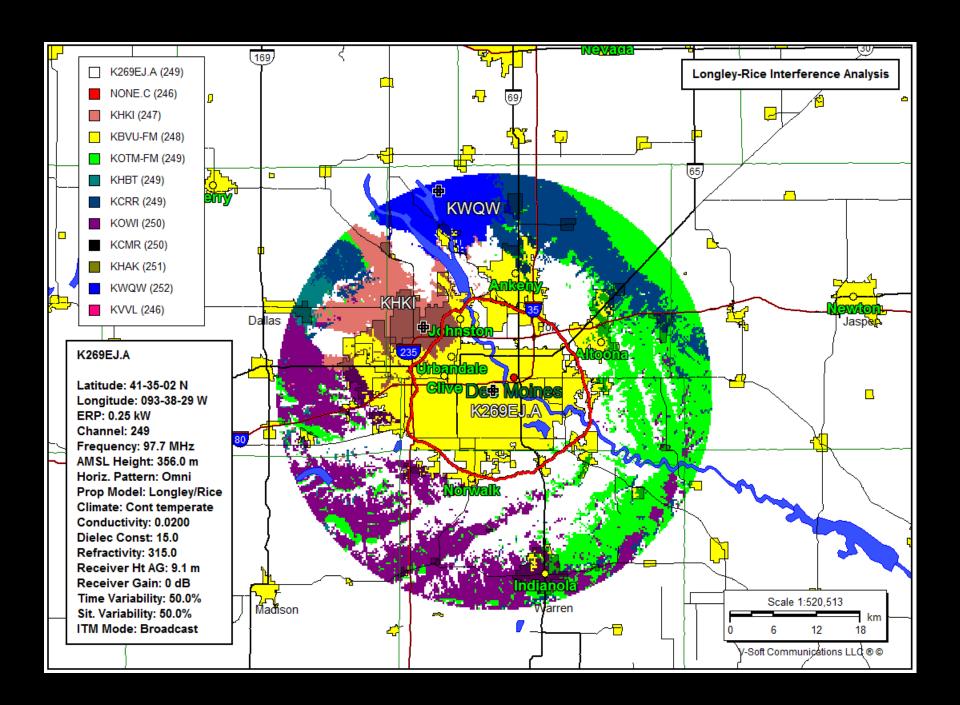
Example K269EJ Displacement

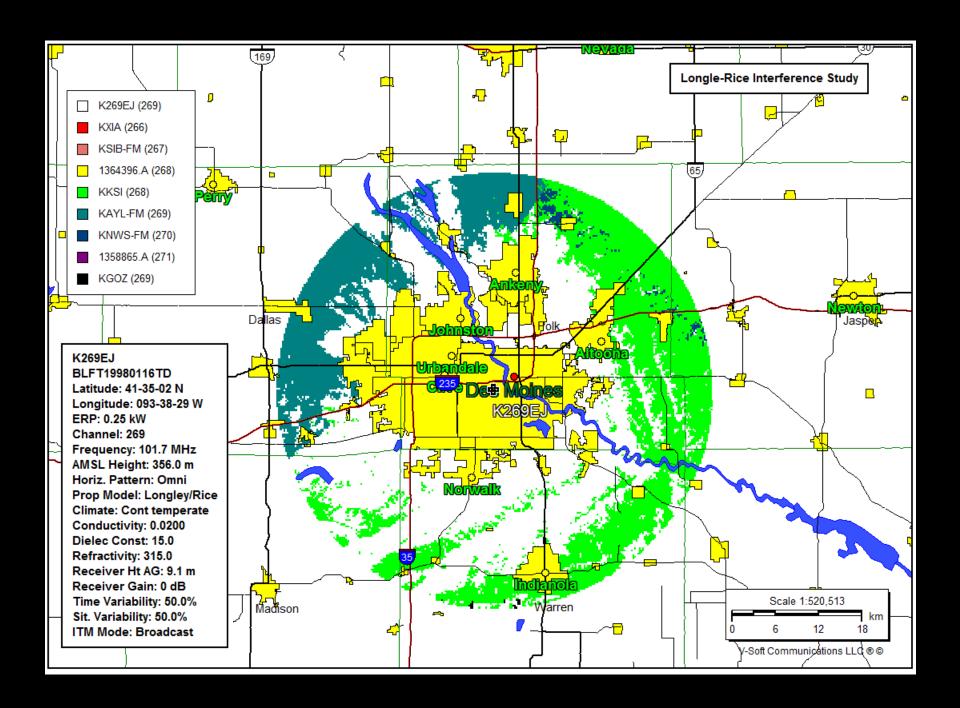


How much received interference is too much?

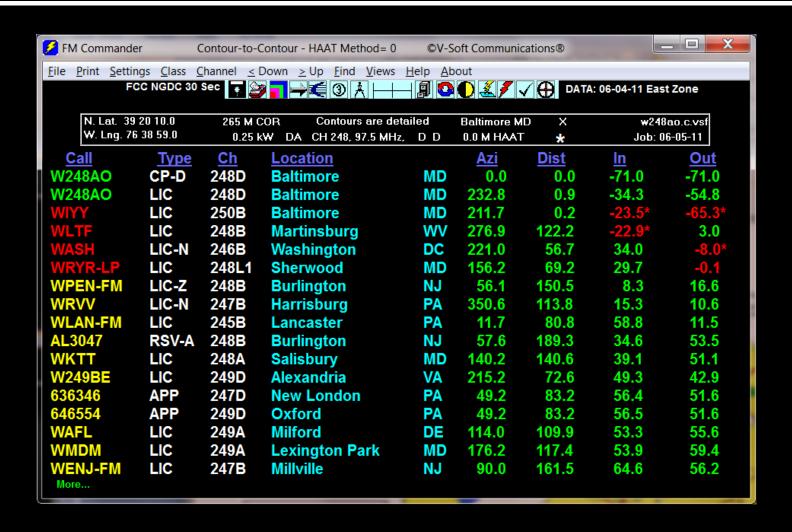
- K269EJ, Des Moines has been displaced by a full service move-in on its channel
- A frequency study showed that only one channel was available and it would receive interference







Example – This translator needs a 2nd adjacent waiver to protect WIYY & WASH



2nd and 3rd Adjacent Waiver Twists

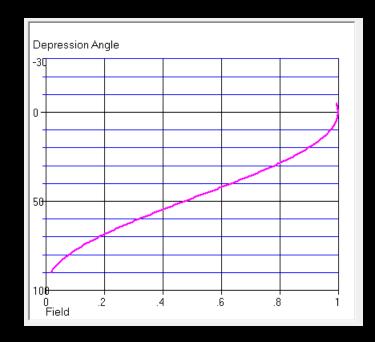
- Translators are routinely granted waivers to operate within the protected contour of a 2nd or 3rd adjacent full-service station
- Engineer must prove that the translator's interference signal is not more than 40 dB above the protected station signal at the same point... and that there are no people living or working there
- The secret is to employ an antenna with a vertical elevation field that produces a low signal level at the point of concern and keep the antenna high

Overcoming 2nd or 3rd adjacent interference

 When the proposed translator is within the normally protected contour of another station on a 2nd or 3rd adjacent channel

Example, assume a translator's one-bay antenna's

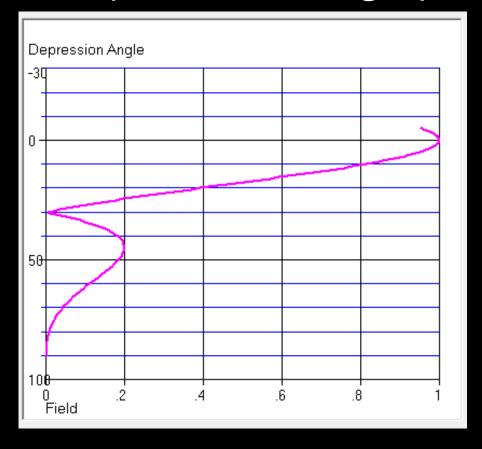
vertical field:



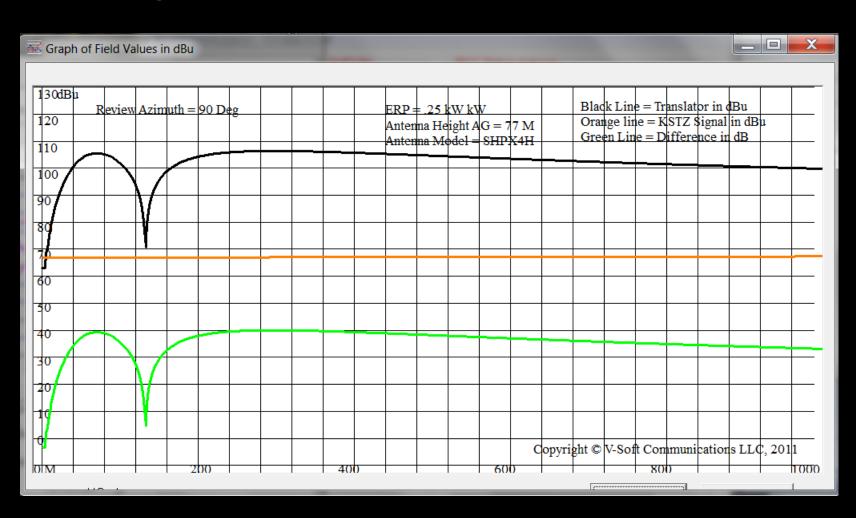
Use 4-bay half wave and raise antenna to 77 meters



Half wave 4-bay vertical field graph



Graph shows no interference from site using 4-bay half-wave antenna and antenna height of 77 meters above ground

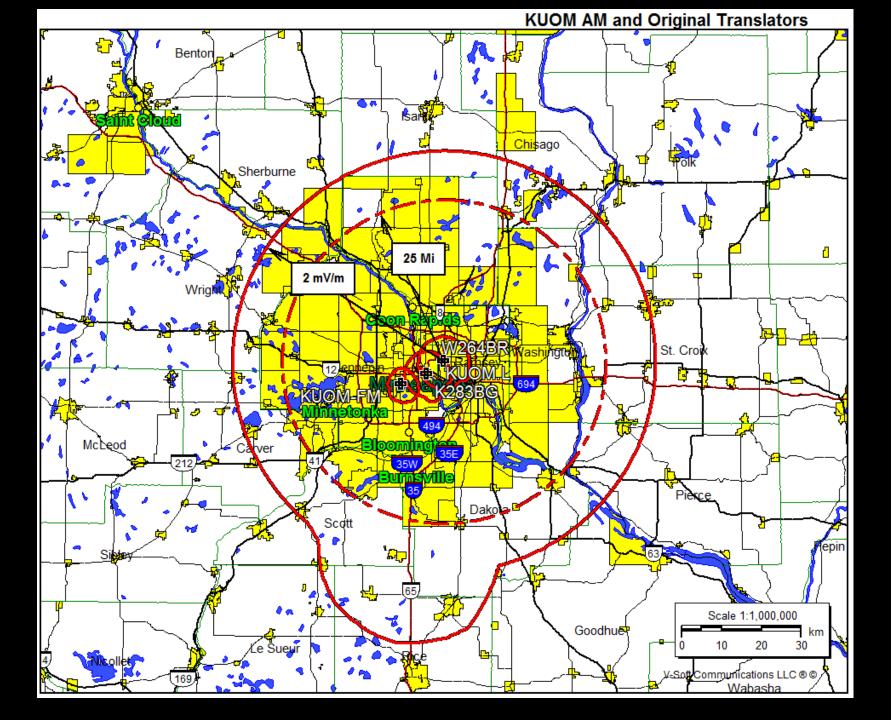


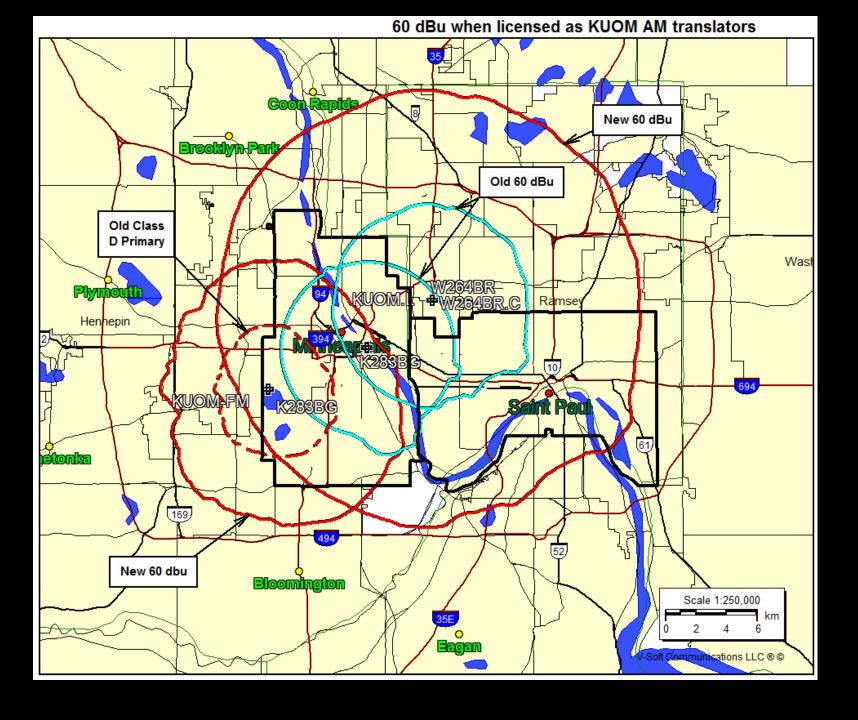
W283BI – Interference showing –Satellite Map

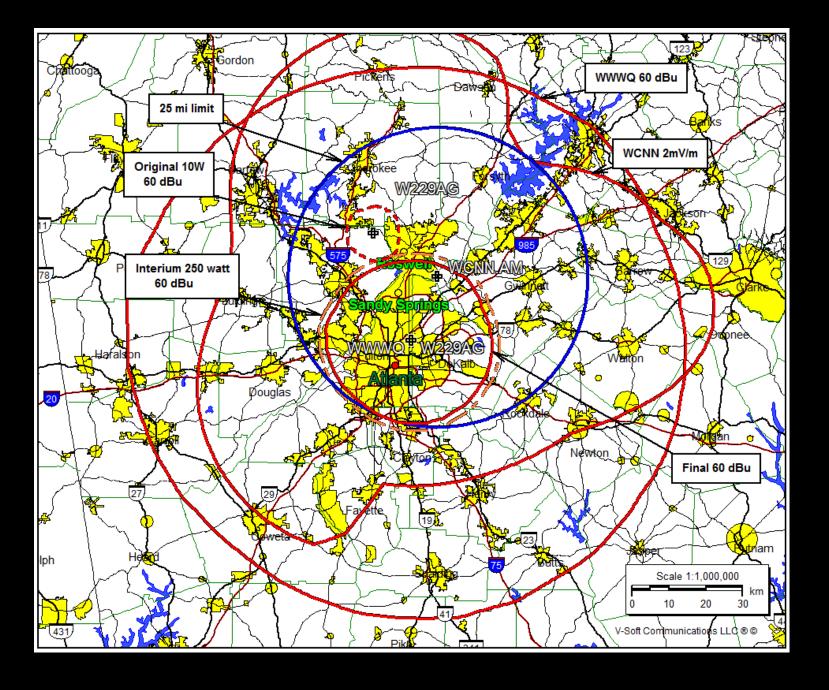


Translators for AM Stations

- To be used for AM, translators must be licensed before May 1st, 2009. This may change.
- Since 2009 ~500 FM translators are now used with AM stations.
- No portion of the FM translator's 60 dBu may exceed the 2 mV/m AM signal contour or 25 mile radius from the AM transmitter
- Translator must be co-owned by AM licensee or the translator licensee must have written consent
- AM day stations are allowed to "originate" programming on the FM translator at night
- No limit on the number of FM translators, unless they serve the same area.







Moving a translator to a new site

- Unlike NCE and commercial stations, translators have no requirement to serve a city of license with a certain value signal strength.
- A translator can be moved to a new site as long as some of the new 60 dBu contour overlaps with the old 60 dBu contour.
- FCC recently accepted a waiver of the overlapping rule to allow an FM translator to move well beyond the overlap to become an AM-Fill in translator.
- FCC has placed a freeze on translator move-ins from outside a spectrum limited market.
- Owners are hop-scotching translators to their final locations

FM Translator Band Hopping

The FCC will no longer allow a commercial band FM translator to move into the noncommercial portion of the band unless the translator has been licensed on its current frequency for 2 years or more. This same restriction now applies to NCE band translators hopping into the commercial band.

Hop-scotching translators

- Moving a translator multiple times to get it to a new location is harder to do but still possible
- FCC slowdown 3 months is now 1 1/12 months
- Some applicants are using crank-up towers on trailers that can be moved from one location to another
- Recently, in Florida, the FCC cracked down on this because the sites were not "permanent".

Who is buying Translators?



HORIZON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP is selling 73 FM translators to RON UNKEFER's FIRST VENTURES CAPITAL PARTNERS for \$275,000. The translators include K231AW/ABILENE, KS; K288FD/ARKADELPHIA, AR; K229AK/BAYWOOD-LOS OSOS, CA; W243BD/BEECHWOOD, MI; K288FF/BISMARCK, ND; W214BS/BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI; W270BH/BLOOMINGTON, IN; K273BQ/BLUE EARTH, MN; K205EZ/BOONE, IA; K217FB/BROWNFIELD, TX; K295AZ/BUTTONWILLOW, CA; K293BG/CAMBRIA, ĆA; K288FC/CAMDEN, AR; W277AQ/CANTON, IL; K264AY/CHAMBERLAIN, SD; K289BI/DAVENPORT, IA; K213EP/EAGLE GROVE, IA; K243AR/ELLSWORTH, KS; K204FM/FAIRMONT, MN; K210EA/FORDYCE, AR; K236BB/FORT DODGE, IA;; K266BB/FORT MORGAN, CO; W227BL/GALENA, IL; W277BB/GRAND HAVEN, MI; W276BI/GRENADA, MS; W277AT/HAVANA, IL; K203EK/HOLYOKE, CO; K237EL/HURON, SD; W247BA/INDIANOLA, MS; K260BJ/KAHOKA, MO; K285FW/KING CITY, CA; K218DZ/LEVELLAND, TX; K288EZ/LITTLE ROCK, AR; K287AS/LOS BANOS, CA; W294AT/MACON, MS; W203BN/MACON, MS; K262BJ/MACON, MO; K252DO/MADERA, CA; K279AN/MARSHALLTOWN, IA; W290AZ/MARSHFIELD, WI K296FG/MIDLAND, TX; K269EN/MONTICELLO, AR; K277AP/MORTON, TX; K274BT/MOUNT PLEASANT, IA; K254AS/NASHVILLE, AR; W220DR/NEILLSVILLE, WI; K238AZ/ODESSA, TX; K258BG/OSKALOOSA, IÁ; K299BA/OTTUMWA, ÍA; K219LA/PARSONS, KS; K237DH/PELLA, IA; K296FI/PIERRE, SD; K255AX/PINE BLUFF, AR; K277BB/PLAINVIEW, TX; K231BM/POPLAR BLUFF, MO; K205CQ/PRESCOTT, AR; K207EB/REDFIELD, SD; W282AS/SALTILLO, MS; K290BH/SAVANNA, IL; K242AZ/SEARCY, AR; K252DT/SENECA, KS K266BH/SHERIDAN, AR; K248AY/SIOUX CITY, IA; K283AJ/SNYDER, TX; K248AR/STANTON, TX; K295AM/TRENTON, MO; K262BU/UNIONVILLE, MO; K254BN/WEST ODESSA, TX; W227AS/WHITEHALL, MI; W270AO/WINONA, MS; W278AT/WINONA, MS; K230AT/WINTERSET, IA; and K207EG/YUMA, CO.

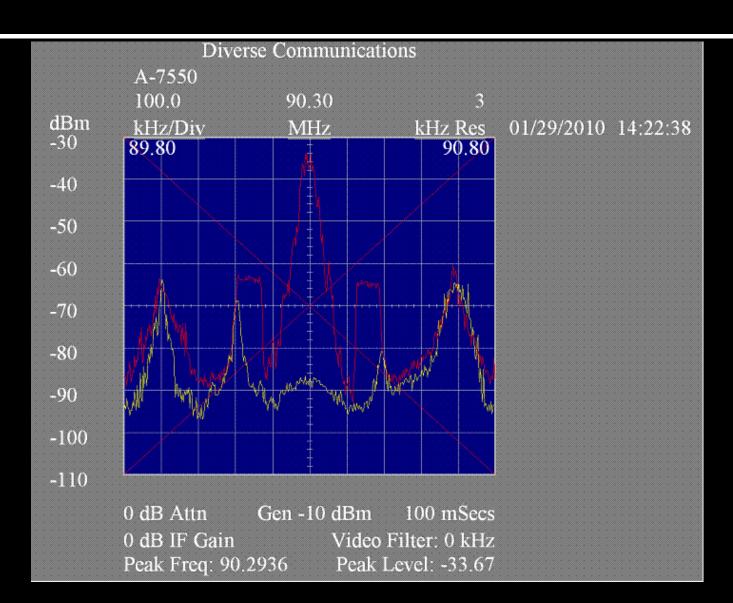
Translator Receiving Issues

Azimuths and distances from the transmitter site of stations causing interference with the receipt of IBOC by the KFAI translator

<u>Call</u>	Type	<u>Ch</u>	Location		<u>Azi</u>	Dist
KFAI	LIC-D	212A	Minneapolis	MN	301.9	17.9
KMKL	LIC-D	212C3	North Branch	MN	6.5	72.9
KMOJ	LIC	210A	Minneapolis	MN	301.8	19.5
K214DF	LIC	214D	Golden Valley	MN	302.3	17.8
KGAC	LIC	213C1	St. Peter	MN	228.2	111.0
KSJR-FM	LIC	211C1	Collegeville	MN	301.1	132.9



Spectrum Analyzer Capture



Local Community Radio Act

- LPFMs are secondary to full-service stations and equal to FM Translators and Boosters
- Forbids FCC from amending existing co, 1st and 2nd adjacent LPFM distance separations.
- Rules will be designed to protect the input frequencies of 3rd adjacent translators — (existing rules protect all adjacent channel FM translator inputs.)
- No protection to 3rd adjacent channels. Waivers can granted for a 2nd adjacent with a showing of no interference.

FCC proposes New LPFM Rules

- LPFM stations will share a status equal to FM translators.
- 3274 translator applications remain in the top 150 markets, blocking LPFM.
- FCC wants to dismiss pending translator applications in the top 150 markets where it finds the market does not have enough LPFM frequencies.
- FCC must perform an economic study within one year to determine the impact of LPFM on fullservice stations

Appendix A

Arb#	CF#	Fall 2010 Arbitron Rankings	Total Licensed Stations			LPFN	LPFM Available in Grid			Result
Rank	Rank	Market	FM trans.	LPFM	NCE FM	Locations	Channels	Licensed	FX apps	
1	1	New York	4	0	16	0	0	0	183	Dismiss all FX
2	2	Los Angeles	16	4	13	0	0	0	115	Dismiss all FX
3	3	Chicago	17	6	44	0	0	0	50	Dismiss all FX
4	4	San Francisco	17	1	18	0	0	0	41	Dismiss all FX
5	5	Dallas-Ft. Worth	11	0	15	2	2	0	18	Dismiss all FX
6	6	Houston-Galveston	12	2	13	3	1	0	117	Dismiss all FX
7	7	Atlanta	19	4	12	4	4	0	31	Dismiss all FX
8	8	Philadelphia	15	0	21	0	0	0	170	Dismiss all FX
9	9	Washington, DC	8	1	5	0	0	0	9	Dismiss all FX
10	10	Boston	10	0	25	0	0	0	10	Dismiss all FX
11	11	Detroit	11	1	19	0	0	0	23	Dismiss all FX
12	12	Miami-Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood								
12	12		9	0	11	0	0	0	27	Dismiss all FX
13	13	Seattle-Tacoma	28	3	15	0	0	0	45	Dismiss all FX
14	14	Puerto Rico	9	0	11	0	0	0	8	Dismiss all FX
15	15	Phoenix	16	1	6	6	3	1	74	Dismiss all FX
16	16	Minneapolis-St. Paul	16	1	8	13	6	0	11	Dismiss all FX
17	17	San Diego	7	1	4	6	5	0	20	Dismiss all FX
18	18	Nassau-Suffolk (Long Island)	17	3	12	2	2	0	0	Dismiss all - see Mkt. #1
19	20	Denver-Boulder	12	2	8	3	3	0	40	Dismiss all FX
20	19	Tampa-St. Petersburg-								
20	19	Clearwater	10	2	6	8	5	0	39	Dismiss all FX
21	21	St. Louis	7	1	16	11	5	0	50	Dismiss all FX

In 2003 translator window 13,00 o applications were filed. 4,219 filed by Radio Asst Ministries and Edgewater Broadcasting (RAM). Of those granted, 1,046 have been sold.

Existing LPFM Minimum Spacings Protecting FM Translators Sec 73.807

Distance to EM topology 00		ninimum separa- n (km)	in	nt channel min- num tion (km)	Second- and third-adjacent channel min-	I.F . Channel minimum separation (km) 10.6 or 10.8 MHz	
Distance to FM translator 60 dBu contour	Required	For no interference received	Required	For no interference received	imum separation (km) required		
13.3 km or greater Greater than 7.3 km, but less	39	67	28	35	21	5	
than 13.3 km	32 26	51 30	21 15	26 16	14 8	5 5	

LPFM Separations to Full Service Stations

§ 73.807

47 CFR Ch. I (10-1-10 Edition)

	Co-channe separati	el minimum ion (km)	First-adjace minimum sep	ent channel caration (km)	Second- and third- adjacent	I.F. channel minimum separations
Station class protected by LP100	Required	For no inter- ference re- ceived from max. class facility	Required	For no inter- ference re- ceived from max. class	channel minimum separation (km)	10.6 or 10.8 MHz
				facility	Required	
LP100	24	24	14	14	None	None
D	24	24	13	13	6	3
Α	67	92	56	56	29	6
B1	87	119	74	74	46	9
В	112	143	97	97	67	12
C3	78	119	67	67	40	9
C2	91	143	80	84	53	12
C1	111	178	100	111	73	20
∞	122	193	111	130	84	22
c	130	203	120	142	93	28

Booster Strategies

- Booster stations must operate on the primary station's co-channel
- Boosters can operate with ERP's up to 20% of the primary station's maximum class power
- Boosters may not extend the protected contour of a station (60 dBu for NCE stations)
- There is no freeze on Booster applications

Boosters must be carefully engineered

- Booster's can bite the hand that feeds them, i.e. interfere with the primary station
- Physical barriers such as mountains between the primary and the booster can help to insure success
- Boosters in flat areas are often unsuccessful
- Synchronized boosters can help, but cannot solve all cases of interference

KDHT-FM

BMLH20081028ABZ Latitude: 39-55-22 N Longitude: 103-58-18 W

ERP: 97.00 kW Channel: 296

Frequency: 107.1 MHz
AMSL Height: 2109.0 m
Horiz. Pattern: Omni
Prop Model: Longley/Rice
Climate: Cont temperate
Conductivity: 0.0200
Dielec Const: 15.0
Refractivity: 315.0
Receiver Ht AG: 9.1 m
Receiver Gain: 0 dB
Time Variability: 50.0%
Sit. Variability: 50.0%
ITM Mode: Broadcast

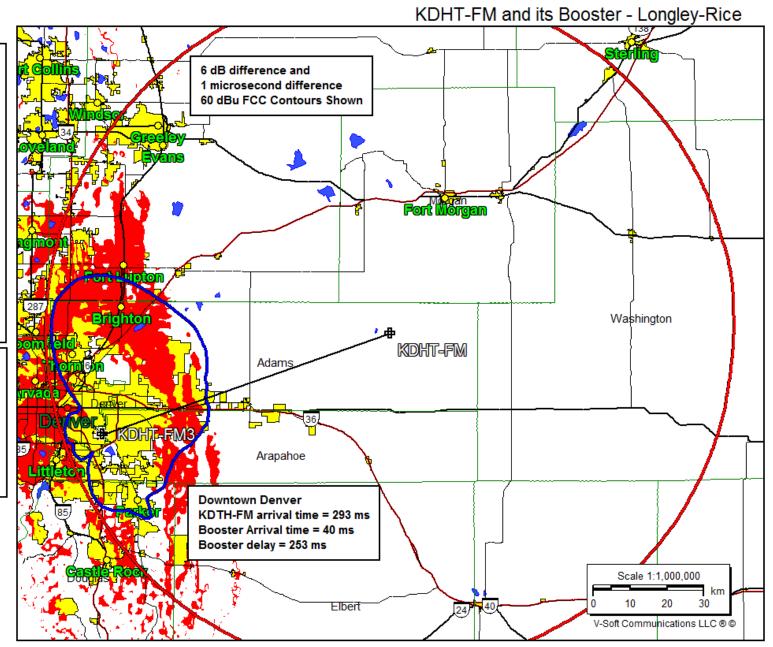
KDHT-FM3

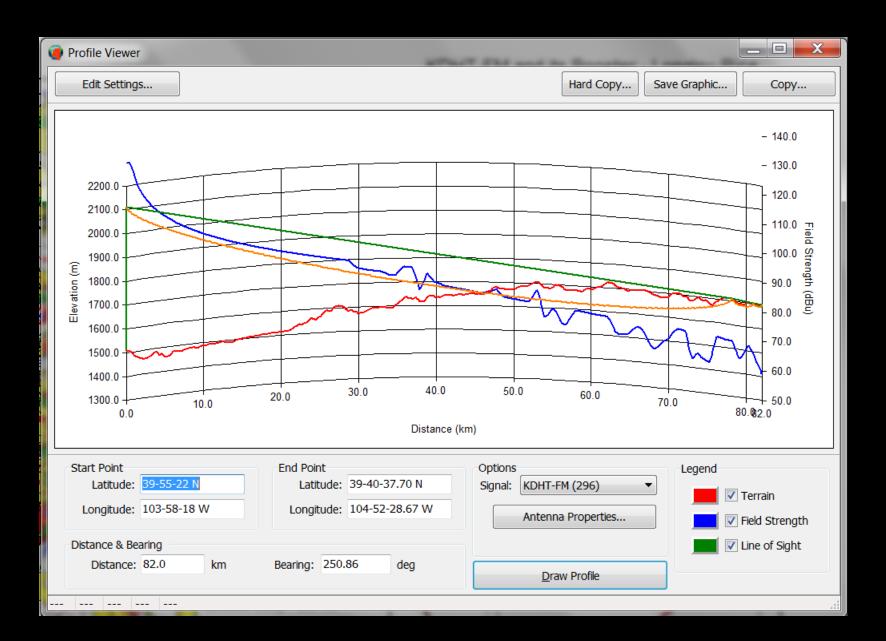
BLFTB20050729DSZ Latitude: 39-40-31 N Longitude: 104-52-22 W

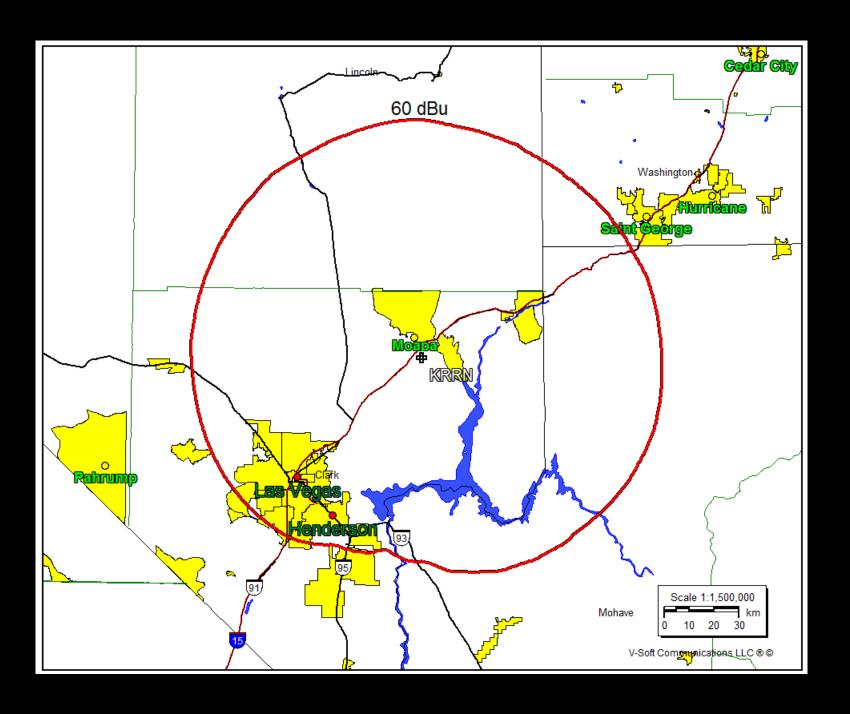
ERP: 20.00 kW Channel: 296

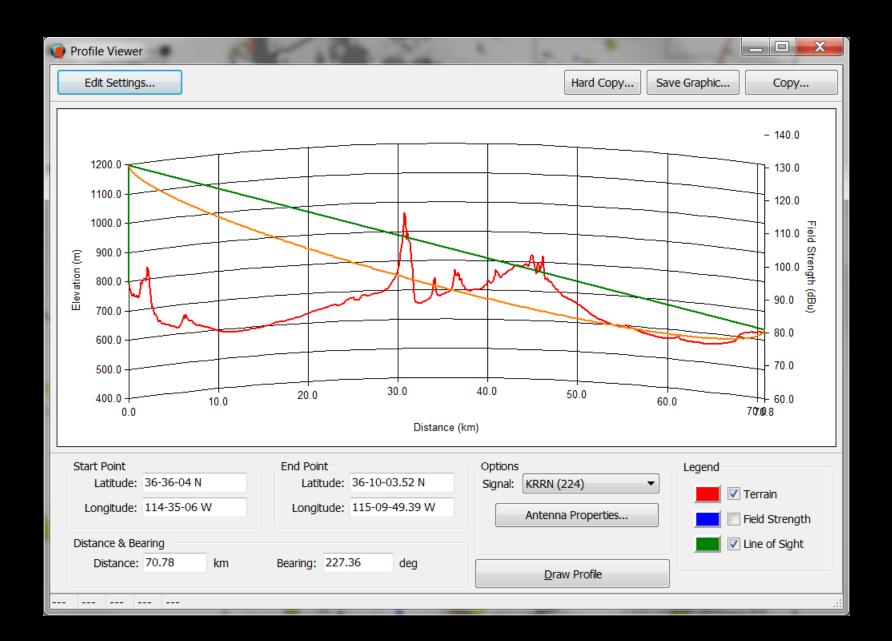
Frequency: 107.1 MHz AMSL Height: 1766.0 m Horiz. Pattern: Directional











KRRN and KRRN-FM2 Longley-Rice Coverage

KRRN

BLH20080327ADP Latitude: 36-36-04 N Longitude: 114-35-06 W ERP: 100.00 kW

Channel: 224 Frequency: 92.7 MHz AMSL Height: 1173.0 r

AMSL Height: 1173.0 m Horiz. Pattern: Omni Prop Model: Longley/Rice Climate: Cont temperate Conductivity: 0.0200 Dielec Const: 15.0 Refractivity: 315.0 Receiver Ht AG: 9.1 m Receiver Gain: 0 dB Time Variability: 50.0% Sit. Variability: 50.0%

KRRN-FM2

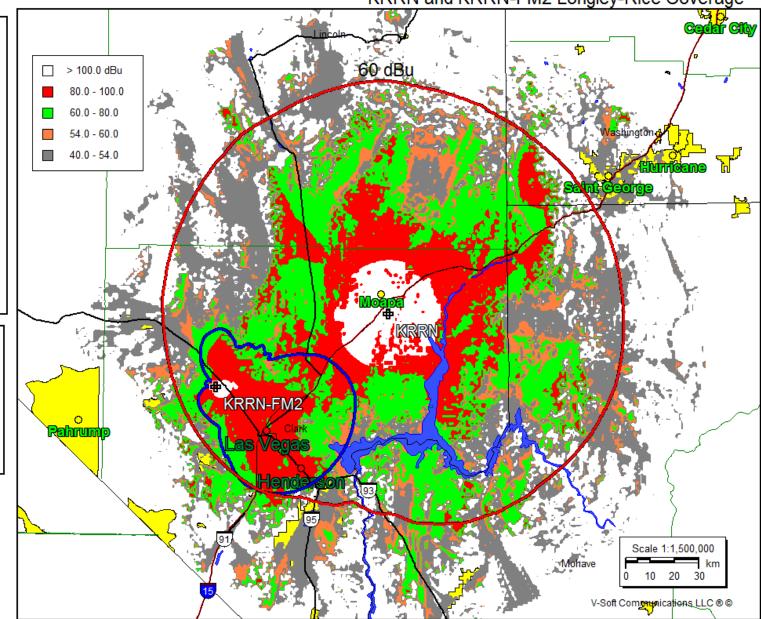
BLFTB20080327ADQ Latitude: 36-20-00 N Longitude: 115-21-41 W

ITM Mode: Broadcast

ERP: 20.00 kW Channel: 224

Frequency: 92.7 MHz AMSL Height: 1079.0 m Horiz. Pattern: Directional





KRRN and KRRN-FM2 Longley-Rice Predicted Interference

KRRN

BLH20080327ADP Latitude: 36-36-04 N Longitude: 114-35-06 W

ERP: 100.00 kW Channel: 224

Frequency: 92.7 MHz
AMSL Height: 1173.0 m
Horiz. Pattern: Omni
Prop Model: Longley/Rice
Climate: Cont temperate
Conductivity: 0.0200
Dielec Const: 15.0
Refractivity: 315.0
Receiver Ht AG: 9.1 m
Receiver Gain: 0 dB
Time Variability: 50.0%
Sit. Variability: 50.0%
ITM Mode: Broadcast

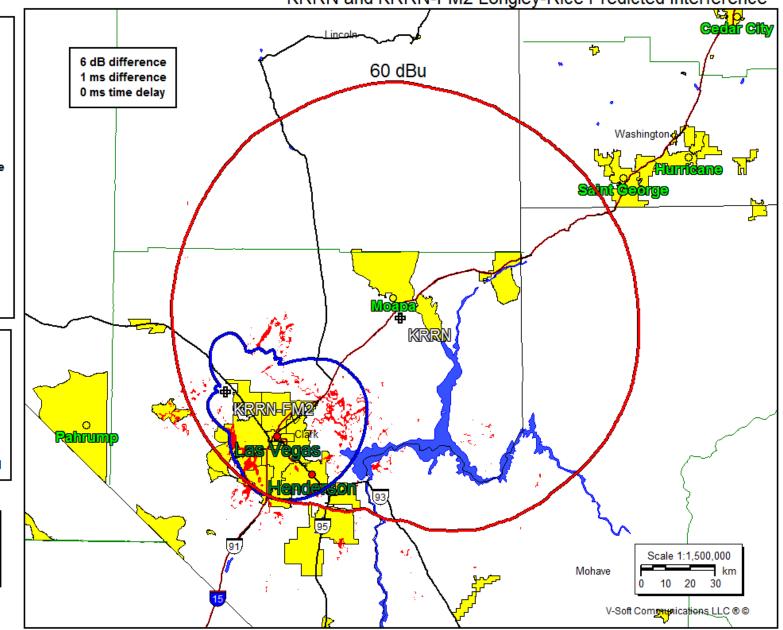
KRRN-FM2

BLFTB20080327ADQ Latitude: 36-20-00 N Longitude: 115-21-41 W

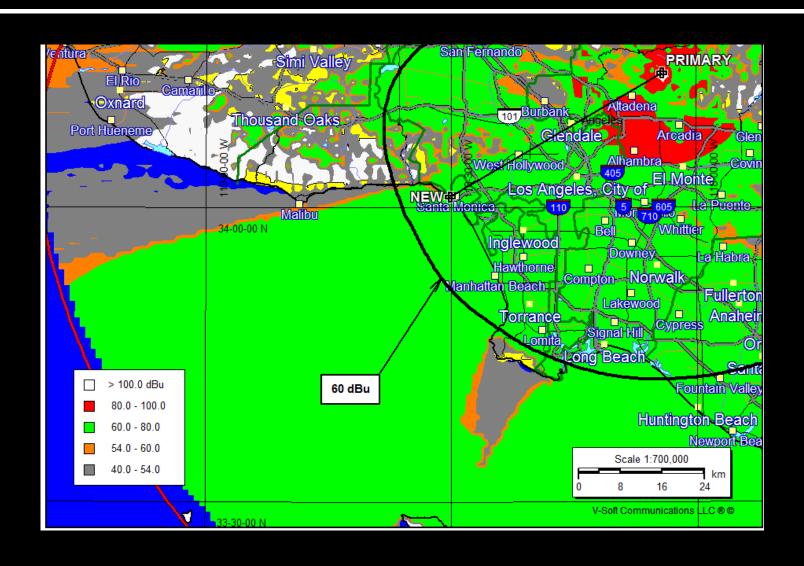
ERP: 20.00 kW Channel: 224

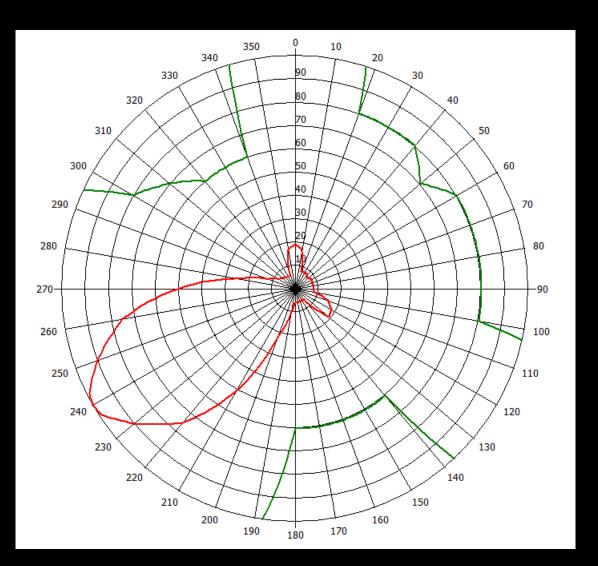
Frequency: 92.7 MHz AMSL Height: 1079.0 m Horiz. Pattern: Directional



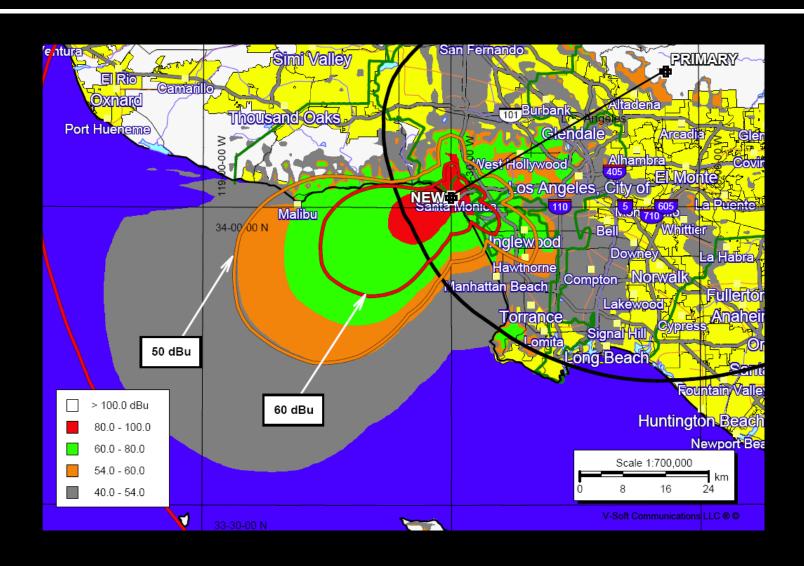


Primary Station's Longley-Rice





Booster Station's Longley-Rice



In Summary

- Fill-in FM translators offer significant opportunities, for both FM and AM stations
- Translator upgrade, site moves, are popular
- Translators can be displaced waivers are granted more freely.
- Outgoing and incoming interference is an important issue.
- A translator can run another station's HD2 or HD3 as input and if located inside its protected contour it can become a fill-in
- New Rules for LPFM may bump many MX translator applications currently on file

In Summary

- HD translators have been unsuccessful due to interference at the input
- New co-channel boosters applications are not frozen
- Boosters work best when there is terrain blockage
- Boosters can be synchronized but only at specific points
- The best boosters overcome a distant input signal with a powerful signal over a populated area





Strategies for

FM Translators & Boosters Comments and Questions?

