



Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

REGULATORY FEES FACT SHEET

September 10, 2014

REGULATORY FEE EXEMPTIONS FOR FY 2014

General Exemptions

Each year, the Commission is required to collect regulatory fees. Licensees and regulatees are assessed fees as set forth in *Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2014, Report and Order*, (released August 29, 2014) (“FY 2014 Regulatory Fees, *Report and Order* and *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*”). The Commission also publishes industry-specific guidance in *Who Owes Fees & What Is My FY 2014 Fee*, which can be found on the Commission website at <http://www.fcc.gov/regfees>.

This Fact Sheet provides information about those entities that are exempt from payment of regulatory fees. Government entities are not required to pay regulatory fees. Non-profit entities (exempt under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code) also may be exempt. The Commission requires that any entity claiming exempt status submit, or have on file with the Commission, a valid IRS Determination Letter documenting its nonprofit status or certification from a governmental authority and attesting to its exempt status. Licensees that are incorrectly identified as exempt from regulatory fees are advised to contact the Commission’s Financial Operations Help Desk at (877) 480-3201, Option 4.

Also, a regulatee is exempt from paying regulatory fees if the sum total of all the regulatory fees it owes is less than \$10. Regulatees are responsible for calculating their own total fee obligation to determine whether they qualify for this *de minimis* exemption. The Commission reserves the right to request documentation that supports a *de minimis* exemption claim.

Specific Service Category Exemptions

In addition to the general exemptions explained above, the following guidance applies to specific service categories. **Noncommercial educational (NCE) FM station licensees** and full service NCE television broadcast station licensees are exempt from paying regulatory fees, provided that these stations operate solely on an NCE basis. **If these stations are exempt, then the licenses held to provide peripheral services are also exempt from regulatory fees, provided that such licenses are used solely in conjunction with the commonly owned NCE stations.** Peripheral services may include auxiliary broadcast stations for AM/FM/Digital (UHF/VHF) TV/LPTV services, remote pickup stations, FM translators or boosters, or TV translators or boosters. Emergency alert system (EAS) licenses for auxiliary service facilities are exempt, as are licenses held for Educational Broadband Service (EBS).

Under our community service exemption, a broadcast facility is exempt from regulatory fees if it meets all three of the following criteria: **(1) it is not licensed to, and is not commonly owned in whole or in part, by the licensee of a commercial broadcast station; (2) it does not derive income from advertising; and (3) it is dependent for support on subscriptions/contributions from the members of the community served.** Finally, licensees of TV translator, TV booster, FM translator, FM booster, and LPTV stations who have obtained a fee refund because of an NTIA facilities grant for their station or a fee waiver because of demonstrated compliance with the eligibility and service requirements of § 73.621 of the Commission's rules are exempt from paying regulatory fees.

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Based upon the guidance and the bolded statements above Braxton Claim's exemption from the FORM 159 Fees due to the following:

1. Braxton's support of a ground station for research purposes for the University of Colorado in the UHF Spectrum applies to the Non-Commercial educational licensees
2. Braxton's support of a ground station for research purposes for the University of Colorado in the UHF Spectrum is NOT a commercial broadcast station, it does NOT derive its income from advertising, and it does NOT depend on subscriptions/support of contributions from the members of the community it serves.
3. Braxton's support of a ground station is purely for research purposes associated with the University of Colorado in the UHF spectrum for their CubeSat Research Programs as seen in the previous attachments.