



Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2019-268

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Reference: Part 1 application posted on 25 March 2019

Ottawa, 30 July 2019

Bell Media Inc.
Across Canada

Public record for this application: 2019-0088-7

Bell Media Inc. – Deletion of transmitters

*Pursuant to an application by Bell Media Inc. (Bell Media), the Commission **deletes** 28 analog rebroadcasting transmitters from Bell Media's broadcasting licences for various over-the-air television stations across Canada as of the dates set out in the appendix to this decision.*

Application

1. On 1 February 2019, Bell Media Inc. (Bell Media) filed an application to delete 28 analog rebroadcasting transmitters from its broadcasting licences for a number of its over-the-air (OTA) television stations located across the country. The list of transmitters is set out in the appendix to this decision.
2. In its application, Bell Media indicated that these transmitters rebroadcast the signals of various stations across the country and none offer programming that differs from that which is offered by the originating stations. The applicant stated that these transmitters do not generate any incremental revenue and generally attract little to no added viewership.

Interventions and reply

3. Five individuals opposed Bell Media's proposal to shut down these transmitters and one expressed support. Affordability and access to content were the main reasons cited in the opposing interventions.
4. In its reply, Bell Media stated that it is requesting authority to shut down these rebroadcasting transmitters in order to improve cost effectiveness and to coordinate with the digital television (DTV) transition schedule mandated by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. Bell Media argued that the costs related to maintaining these older transmitters are significant. The applicant added that the majority of shutdowns would not occur before February 2021 and submitted that its application is fully compliant with Commission policy.

Commission's analysis and decision

5. Bell Media's application does not result in the loss of local or other original programming in the Canadian broadcasting system, given that no stations that originate programming would be shut down. However, it does mean that viewers in the areas served by these transmitters would not be able to receive this programming over the air.
6. Canadians that subscribe to broadcasting distribution undertaking (BDU) services are unlikely to be affected by this change. Terrestrial BDUs are generally required to distribute local and regional television stations within their licensed areas and are authorized to distribute, as part of their basic service, non-local Canadian stations where fewer than 10 local or regional stations are available over the air (to an overall maximum of 10 Canadian OTA stations).¹ While direct-to-home (DTH) BDUs are not required to distribute specific local and regional television stations, they must distribute one television station from each major ownership group that originates in the province² in which the subscriber's residence or other premises are located.³ Given the above, the Commission anticipates that Bell Media's television stations will continue to be made generally available on the basic service by BDUs operating in the markets served by the rebroadcasting transmitters at issue. The Commission also notes that the *Broadcasting Distribution Regulations* limit the price that may be charged to a customer for the basic service.
7. As the Commission recently reiterated in *Corus Entertainment Inc. – Deletion of transmitters and reallocation of tangible benefits*, Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2019-209, 13 June 2019, licences such as those held by Bell Media are authorizations to broadcast, not obligations to do so. This means that, while the Commission has the discretion to refuse to revoke broadcasting licences, even on application from a licensee, it cannot generally direct a licensee to continue to operate its transmitters.
8. In light of the above, the Commission **approves** the deletion of the 28 rebroadcasting transmitters listed in the appendix to this decision⁴ from Bell Media Inc.'s broadcasting licences for various OTA television stations across Canada. These deletions take effect only as of the dates indicated in the appendix.

Secretary General

This decision is to be appended to each licence.

¹ See section 17(6)(a) of the *Broadcasting Distribution Regulations*, SOR/ 97-555.

² For subscribers whose residence or other premises are located in the Atlantic provinces, DTH BDUs must distribute as part of the basic service two television stations that originate in the Atlantic provinces from each major ownership group.

³ See sections 46(4)(b) and 45(5)(b) of the *Broadcasting Distribution Regulations*, SOR/97-555.

⁴ The call signs of the transmitters, the stations from which the programming of these transmitters originate, and the dates on which they will be shut down are set out in the appendix to this decision.

Appendix to Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2019-268

List of rebroadcasting transmitters operated by Bell Media Inc. to be shut down

Province	Call sign and location	Originating station	Date of deletion
British Columbia	CFCN-TV-10 Fernie	CFCN-DT-5 Lethbridge	26 February 2021
	CFCN-TV-15 Invermere	CFCN-DT Calgary	26 February 2021
	CFCN-TV-9 Cranbrook	CFCN-DT-5 Lethbridge	26 February 2021
Alberta	CFRN-TV-12 Athabaska	CFRN-DT Edmonton	26 February 2021
	CFRN-TV-3 Whitecourt	CFRN-DT Edmonton	26 February 2021
	CFRN-TV-4 Ashmount	CFRN-DT Edmonton	26 February 2021
	CFRN-TV-5 Lac La Biche	CFRN-DT Edmonton	26 February 2021
	CFRN-TV-7 Lougheed	CFRN-DT Edmonton	26 February 2021
	CFRN-TV-9 Slave Lake	CFRN-DT Edmonton	16 July 2021
Saskatchewan	CFQC-TV-1 Stranraer	CFQC-DT Saskatoon	26 February 2021
	CFQC-TV-2 North Battleford	CFQC-DT Saskatoon	26 February 2021
	CKMC-TV Swift Current	CKCK-DT Regina	26 February 2021
	CKMJ-TV Marquis	CKCK-DT Regina	26 February 2021
Manitoba	CKYA-TV Fisher Branch	CKY-DT Winnipeg	16 July 2021
	CKYD-TV Dauphin	CKY-DT Winnipeg	16 July 2021
	CFYF-TV Flin Flon	CKY-DT Winnipeg	16 July 2021
	CKYP-TV The Pas	CKY-DT Winnipeg	16 July 2021
Ontario	CITO-TV-2 Kearns	CITO-TV Timmins	3 December 2021
	CJOH-TV-47 Pembroke	CJOH-DT Ottawa	2 May 2020
	CJOH-TV-6 Deseronto	CJOH-DT Ottawa	9 October 2020
	CKCO-TV-3 Oil Springs	CKCO-DT Kitchener	2 May 2020
	CKNY-TV-11 Huntsville	CICI-TV Sudbury	9 October 2020
New Brunswick	CKAM-TV-3 Blackville	CKCW-DT Moncton	3 December 2021
	CKAM-TV-4 Doaktown	CKCW-DT Moncton	3 December 2021
	CKLT-TV-2 Boiestown	CKLT-DT Saint John	3 December 2021

Nova Scotia	CJCB-TV-3 Dingwall	CJCB-TV Sydney	3 December 2021
	CJCH-TV-3 Valley/Colchester	CJCH-DT Halifax	3 December 2021
	CJCH-TV-4 Bridgetown	CJCH-DT Halifax	3 December 2021

