

At 05:00 PM 09/27/2010 -0700, Russ Edmunds wrote:

>Thanks - even so there appear to be some loose ends especially with all of  
>those other applicants for 1020...

Not really. Basically, there were several applications for 1020khz at Philadelphia in the late 1930s. The FCC eventually chose Westinghouse and rejected the applications of the others. The Westinghouse application was a bit unusual because it called for the move of a station over a fairly long distance. However, in my research of the license history of more than 800 stations, I have found other examples of stations being moved over considerable distances.

>Under current FCC practice, which was essentially the same in 1965, a  
>legacy call such as KYW ( both as a 3-call and also as a non-conforming K  
>call ) could only be used if it had been in use at some point previously.  
>Thus the KYW call could be brought back from Cleveland, where it went in 1955.

As noted elsewhere, this was a unique case. There was a Federal Court order overturning the 1954 agreement under which Westinghouse and NBC agreed to exchange the NBC owned stations in Cleveland for the Westinghouse owned stations in Philadelphia. The Court found that NBC used illegal coercion to get Westinghouse to give up their Philadelphia stations. I recall that the coercion took the form of an NBC threat to pull the NBC network affiliation from the Westinghouse owned Philadelphia stations. The 1965 Court action was to restore the License situation, including call letters, to what it was in 1954 before the illegal agreement.

Because the KYW License dates back to 1921, it originated under the Commerce Department, before the Federal Radio Commission and its successor, the Federal Communications Commission. The policy of W calls east of the Mississippi and K calls west of the Mississippi hadn't been established.

>I recall having logged 1060 as KYW when I first started DX'ing in an

>informal way in either 1954 or 1955, then as WRCV until it changed back,  
>all while living about 70 miles NE in New Jersey.

I worked for KYW-TV from 1967 to 1983 and heard the stories about what happened when NBC was forced to give up the Philadelphia stations following the 1965 Court Order. Because I was in TV engineering, most of the stories I heard had to do with NBC pulling out as much of the color TV equipment as they could. That included color cameras, videotape machines, and the mobile unit. Only the black & white cameras, one old RCA TK-26 color film chain and two Ampex VR-1001 videotape machines were left behind. We left the Ampex VR-1001 videotape machines behind when the station moved from 1619 Walnut St. down to Independence Mall in 1973 for several reasons. For one, their method of color playback was no longer FCC legal. Their use was "grand-fathered" only so long as they were located where they were originally installed. That may also have been true in 1965 when NBC left town.

Xen Scott