

However, in 1931, both KDKA & 8XK were moved again, this time to another new facility at Saxonburg, another suburban location within Pittsburgh.

Here it was that the callsign was regularized in 1939 to the four letter callsign, WPIT. By this time, four shortwave transmitters were in use for the broadcast of the Westinghouse radio programming.

Right towards the end of the year 1939, the final split came between

mediumwave KDKA & shortwave WPIT, with the transfer of KDKA to another new

location again, this time Allison Park in Pennsylvania, and the transfer

of WPIT to Hull in Massachusetts. Production staff and studios for the

shortwave service were re-located some months later to the home of another

Westinghouse mediumwave station, WBZ in Boston.

However, during the following year, the other Westinghouse shortwave

station, WBOS was transferred from Millis near Boston, to Hull, which is

located right at the end of a narrow peninsula opposite Boston.

Here it

was that the equipment of both stations was integrated and the WPIT callsign was dropped, with the usage now of only the one call, WBOS.

For a period of twelve years, station WBOS in Hull carried VOA programming to Europe & Africa. When this term of service was over, the

equipment was

sold and transferred to shortwave station WRUL which was located further

down the coast at Hatherley Beach, near the town of Scituate (SIT-you-ate).

There was a disastrous fire at station WRUL in 1967 in which all of the

World War 2 equipment was destroyed. This then would mark the final end of

the historic shortwave station, 8XK-WPIT, after nearly half a century of

international radio coverage.

As a postscript, station WRUL in Scituate became WNYW, and then it was

bought by Family Radio and re-designated as WYFR, which is on the air

these days with fourteen shortwave transmitters at Okeechobee in Florida.

Westinghouse KDKA on Shortwave  
Time Lines

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Location Calls Year Date Events  
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Wilkinsburg 8XK 1916 Aug 1 1st listing of this call in Radio Service

Bulletin

8XK 1917 Apr 7 All amateur licences suspended WW1

2WM WW1 Special authorization for tests during war

1919 Oct 1 Amateur ban lifted; ISH 4

8XK 1919 Oct 17 1st broadcast of music

8XK 1920 May 1 Relicensed, listed in Bureau of Navigation Bulletin

8XK 1920 Sep 23 Concert program reported in newspaper

8XK 1920 Nov 2 Back up relay on SW for KDKA

8XK 1924 Jul Call transferred to new station at Forest Hills

Pittsburgh E 2WE WW1 Test transmitter installed at factory during

war

8XC 1920 Fred Conroy gives demo to Westinghouse at factory

8ZZ 1920 MW station constructed, 500 w, 500 lbs

KDKA 1920 Nov 2 MW station launched as KDKA

8XS 1922 Aug New 1 kW SW transmitter began relay from KDKA

8XS Power raised from 1 kW to 10 kW

8XS New 30 kW MW KDKA used at night SW to England

8XS 1924 Jul MW & SW moved to new location at Forest Hills

Forest Hills 8XK 1924 Jul MW & SW moved from Pittsburgh to Forest

Hills

W8XK 1928 Amended call

W8XK Upgraded to 15 kW

W8XK 1931 MW & SW moved from Forest Hills to Saxonburg

Saxonburg W8XK 1931 SW & MW moved from Forest Hills to Saxonburg

W8XK Additional SW transmitters installed, 4 SW in use

WPIT 1939 Sep 1 Official date for call change from W8XK to WPIT

WPIT 1939 KDKA MW moved to Allison Park, SW WPIT to Hull

Hull WPIT 1939 SW moved from Saxonburg to Hull

WPIT 1940 Late WBOS moved from Millis to Hull

WPIT 1940 Dec Studios & staff moved from Pittsburg to Boston

WBOS New composite 50 kW installed; Fraser

WBOS 1941 Jan 1 WPIT call dropped, now only WBOS

WBOS 1941 Nov OWI & CIAA programming began

WBOS 1942 Dec OWI-VOA took over

WBOS 1953 Jul Released from VOA service

WBOS 1953 Sold to WRUL and moved to Scituate

Scituate WRUL 1953 WBOS sold to WRUL moved Scituate for spare parts

WRUL 1960 Station sold to Metro Media

WRUL 1962 Jun Sold to Latter Day Saints, Mormons

WNYW 1965 Jun 1 Call changed from WRUL to WNYW

WNYW 1967 Apr 9 Fire destroyed all WW2 equipment

WNYW 1967 Sep Station re-opened with 5 transmitters

WYFR 1973 Oct 20 Sold to Family Radio, call change

WYFR 1977 1st transmitter removed re-installed at Okeechobee WYFR

1979 Nov

16 Last transmitter switched off at 2052 UTC

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Westinghouse KDKA on Shortwave  
References

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City Location Call Information & Reference

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Cleveland, Ohio

Factory SW relay from KDPM MW began Mar 1923; ISH 224

KDPM began relay off 8XS Mar 4, 1923; Kent 71

KDPM closed soon afterwards; Kent 71

Forest Hills, Pennsylvania

New Station 8XS FH, east suburban Pittsburgh, close to Wilkinsburgh

8XS Moved E Pittsburgh to Forest Hills Jul 1924; Kent 81

8XS Provisions for several SW transmitters; Kent 82

8XS Moved to new location FH Jul 1924; Kent 81 8XS Call returned to

FRC;

JB OTSW 48

8XS Call returned mid summer 1924; ISH 28

8XK Call transferred to Westinghouse; JB OTSW 48

8XK Call transferred mid summer 1924; ISH 28

8XK Photos building, transformers, 8XK. RN 84.161 9-24 1

8XK 50 ft copper tube antenna; RN 84.161 9-24 1

8XK 1st overseas station heard Australia; LI 26-9-31 43

8XK 1st overseas station rebroadcast Australia; Dec 14 24

8XK Letter from manager after Herald tests 25-3-25; 77.18

8XK Special 3 day programs Australia; LI 79.23 2-10-26 1

8XK Photo transmitter building; LI 79.23 2-10-26 16

8XK Photo 8XK transmitter; LI 79.23 2-10-26 16

8XK Relayed by 3LO MW & 3SW 63 m; LI 79.23 16-10-26

8XK Test to Australia 63 m; LI 79.23 16-10-26 1

W8XK Amended call; JB OTSW 48

W8XK Upgraded to 15 kW; Kent 85

W8XK Moved FH Saxonburg 1931; Kent 35

Hastings, Nebraska

KFKX 9XM Long station profile; Golden Age 83.2 17

9XM Work began Spring 1923; Kent 72

9XM SW relay from 8XS to KGO began Nov 22. 1923; ISH

9XM Photo 9XW; PC 10-98 14

9XM NBC took over Dec 3 1925; Kent 75

9XM Entire station closed & moved to KYW Chicago; Kent

Hull, Massachusetts

New Station WBZ Hull, Nantasket Beach, end peninsula East of Boston

WPIT 1939 KDKA moved Allison Park, WPIT to Hull; Kent

WPIT 2 rhombics LA Europe 50 ft high wood poles; Kent 193

WPIT 2 rhombics LA Europe 50 ft high wood poles; MT8 93

WPIT Pittsburgh 46.86 6140 1939 Dec 30; CPRV QSL card

WBOS Moved from Millis to Hull late 1940; Kent 191

WPIT Staff move to WBZ Boston Bradford Hotel Dec 1940;

WPIT Studios moved to Boston; R&H 3-41 56 79.12

WPIT Studios moved Boston recently; R&H 79.12 3-42 52

WPIT 1940 to Europe, Africa & LA; Kent 191

WPIT 25.27 11870 1940 Jul 14 Fox N Zealand; AWR  
WBOS New composite 50 kW installed; Fraser  
WBOS WPIT call dropped Jan 1, 1941; QSL letter  
WBOS Nov 1941 OWI & CIAA programming began; Kent 192  
WBOS OWI-VOA took over Dec 1942; Kent 191  
WBOS Dropped from VOA service Jul 1 1953; SWdoc  
WBOS Sold to WRUL moved to Scituate 1953; SWdoc  
Millis, Massachusetts  
Station WBZ Millis is 30 m SW of central Boston  
W1XAZ Moved in with WBZ summer 1934; Kent 86  
W1XK Change call from W1XAZ to W1XK 1936; Kent 86  
WBOS Callsign change Sep 1, 1939  
WBOS Moved from Millis to Hull late 1940; Kent 191

#### Okeechobee, Florida

New Station WYFR 1977 Nov 23 1st Scituate unit activated; SWdoc  
WYFR 14th transmitter installed  
Pittsburgh East, Pennsylvania  
Factory 2WE Test transmitter installed at factory during war; ISH 4  
2WE Wartime callsign; Kent 58  
8XC Davis hears nearby amateur station; Fraser  
8XC Radio Club Carnegie Institute ; YB 84.161 BoB 73  
8XC Fred Conroy gives demo to Westinghouse; Fraser  
8ZZ MW station constructed; Fraser  
8ZZ MW licence granted 27-10-20; Fraser  
KDKA Launched Nov 2, 1920  
KDKA 500 watts 500 lbs; LI 79.23 26-9-31 48  
8XS New SW transmitter relayed KDKA began 8-22; JB  
8XS New 1 kW SW transmitter at factory; SWdoc  
8XS Photo of transmitter; PC 10-98 14  
8XS Regular evening relay began; JB OTSW 48  
8XS To KDPM 3 Mhz Mar 4, 1923; Kent 71  
8XS Regular relay began Jul 1923; ISH 24  
8XS Regular relay began Jul 19, 1923; Kent 61  
8XS Power raised from 1 kW to 10 kW; Kent 61  
8XS Regular relay began KDKA 8XS KFKX SW KGO; JB  
8XS Special relays to England, South Africa, Australia; JB  
8XS Plans for UK relay; R&E 24 84.161 99  
8XS Special broadcasts northern regions began 1923; JB  
8XS Northern broadcasts began summer 1923; Kent 81  
8XS Relays to 2AC Manchester began Oct 1923; Kent 76  
8XS New 30 kW KDKA used at night SW to England; Kent  
8XS 1st relay by 2AC Dec 29, 1923; Kent 76  
8XS 1st foreign language broadcast March 25, 1924; Kent  
8XS Moved to new location Jul 1924 Forest Hills; Kent 81 KDKA Early  
voices; DXN 14-10-96 19

#### Pittsburgh East, Pennsylvania

Mobile 1st remote, church Jan 2, 1921; USH 12  
200 w SW transmitter steeple Presbyterian Church;  
Saxonburg, Pennsylvania  
New Station W8XK Saxonburg is 20 miles NE of central Pittsburgh  
W8XK SW & KDKA moved from FH to SB 1931; Kent 85  
W8XK Rhombics Europe, Africa, South America; Kent 85

W8XK KDKA-8XS weighs 164 tons; LI 79.23 26-9-31 48  
 W8XK 3 SW transmitters in use; LI 79.23 26-9-31 48  
 W8XK 46.86 6140 1934 May 24 Moss England; QSL AWR  
 W8XK Pittsburgh 1935 QSL; JB OTSW  
 W8XK 4 transmitters 4 frequencies, 40 kW; Kent 85  
 W8XK 6140 11870 15210 21540 40 kW QSL card; JB  
 1936 FCC required separate licence each transmitter;  
 Transmission facilities further increased; Kent 85  
 W8XK Began EE FF Icelandic Danish Eskimo 1939; Kent  
 WPIT Call change from W8XK to WPIT Aug 1939  
 WPIT 1939 KDKA moved Allison Park, W8XK to Hull; Kent  
 Scituate, Massachusetts  
 New Station W1XAL Established 1936; SWdoc  
 W1XAL Also W1XAR at Scituate in 1939; SWdoc  
 WRUL WSLR & WSLA then WRUW & WRUL; SWdoc WRUL Full time usage VOA  
 programming 1942; WS267  
 WRUL Station sold to Metro Media 1960; WS267  
 WBOS Sold to WRUL moved to Scituate 1953; SWdoc  
 WRUL Sold to Latter Day Saints, SLC, 1962; WS267  
 WNYW Call change from WRUL to WNYW 1966; WS267  
 WNYW Fire destroys WW2 equipment; 9-4-67; SWdoc  
 WYFR Sold Family Radio call change Oct 20 1973; WS  
 WYFR 1st transmitter removed to Florida 1977; WS267  
 WYFR Last transmitter off 2052 UTC 16-11-79; WS267  
 Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania  
 Garage 8XK Wilkinsburg is in east suburban Pittsburgh  
 8XK Dr Frank Conrad's home, photo; ISH 3  
 8XK Aug 1, 1916, 1st listing Radio Service Bulletin. ISH 4  
 8XK Call granted Aug 1, 1916; Kent 58  
 8XK All amateur licences suspended, Apr 7, 1917; ISH 4  
 2WM Special authorization for tests during war; ISH 4  
 2WM Wartime callsign; Kent 58  
 Amateur ban lifted Oct 1, 1919; ISH 4  
 8XK 1st broadcast of music Oct 17, 1919; ISH 6  
 8XK May 1, 1920 relicensed in Bureau Navigation Bulletin  
 8XK Concert program Sep 23 1920 reported in paper; ISH  
 8XK 1920 Nov 2 back up relay KDKA; SWdoc PC 8-88 26  
 8XK Conrad relays KDKA on SW 1920 Nov 2; ISH 10  
 8XK Conrad relays KDKA , SW up to 60 m 75 - 100 w: JB  
 8XK Relay KDKA tests on 3 Mhz began winter 21-22; Kent  
 8XK House 1921 winter SW experiments; SWdoc  
 8XK Call transferred to Westinghouse; JB OTSW 48  
 8XK Call transferred to new station at Forest Hills; Kent 82

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 Westinghouse KDKA on Shortwave  
 QSL Cards  
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 Call Location M kHz Year Date Listener Country Holder  
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 W8XK Saxonburg 48.86 6140 1934 May 24 Moss England AWR  
 W8XK Saxonburg 1935 OTSW  
 W8XK Saxonburg 19.71 15210 CPRV

WPIT Hull 48.86 6140 1939 Dec 30 CPRV  
WPIT Hull 25.27 11870 1940 Jul 14 Fox N Zealand AWR  
Pacific

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