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March 1, 2015

To all Alaska Radio and Television Station General Managers,

The Alaska Broadcasters Association is again proud to provide the **ABIP** (Alternative Broadcast Inspection Program). This program will offer each station the opportunity to have their station inspected by an FCC certified inspector. Ed Sutton will check each station for possible infringement of FCC rules. Your station will then be able to address any problems found and correct them. When your station is found compliant, Mr. Sutton will issue a Certificate of Compliance.

With the Certificate of Compliance, the FCC has agreed to give you a three-year time period without the threat of random inspection. The Certificate of Compliance does **NOT** cover FCC targeted inspections such as Tower Safety, EEO and Political Public Files, or inspections due to public complaint. Also, any directional AM stations will be able to calibrate their equipment at no extra charge. This benefit alone is worth \$500. You must display your Certificate of Compliance in the lobby of your station to show all who visit that you have passed inspection.

The Alternative Broadcast Inspection Program is totally subsidized by the funds raised by the NCSA program. Those stations that are members of the ABA will only pay \$300, per station of license, for this service. This is same fee that we charged for the very first inspection in 2000. Membership dues must be current for 2015. Non-members will need to arrange inspections privately with Ed Sutton, essuttonjr@gmail.com, and will be responsible for his fees and all travel expenses.

ABA will do all of the scheduling and travel arrangements. We will pay for the inspector to fly or drive to your station, as well as pay for hotel and expenses while he is at your location. There will be no additional charges to the individual stations. **Deadline for sign-up is March 31, 2015.** Your check should accompany your sign-up form or you can pay online at www.alaskabroadcasters.org and either fax or email signup form and station contract form.

No inspections will be scheduled until membership dues are current for 2015 and inspection payment is received.

The ABA office will set the schedule for the inspections. Please let me know ASAP of any bad dates for the inspector to be at your station. Once the schedule has been set, the fee will be **non-refundable**. Every effort will be made to accommodate your scheduling needs. The inspections will begin approximately May 1, 2015 and will continue until all stations have been inspected (most likely until Mid August). It is highly recommended that all personnel responsible for the public file attend this very educational part of the inspection. Mr. Sutton will of course answer any questions and work with you in any way you request.

Please find the enclosed:

1. Sign-up form. To be returned with payment by March 31
2. Station Contract and Indemnification Form, to be signed and returned by March 31
3. Copy of FCC/ABA national contract. FYI only, no need to sign or return.
4. Ed Sutton Bio.

The ABIP has proven to be our most valuable member benefit; saving stations thousands of dollars in potential FCC fines. Alaska has the highest percentage (98%) of stations inspected by state in the entire country.

Cathy Hiebert
Executive Director, ABA