
FCC Sets September 20, 2013 as the Deadline for Payment of FY 2013 Annual Regulatory Fees

By Tony Lin and Paul A. Cicelski

The FCC has announced that full payment of all applicable Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2013 must be received no later than September 20, 2013.

Several years ago, the Commission discontinued mailing assessment notices to licensees/permittees. Accordingly, it is the responsibility of each licensee/permittee to determine what fees are due and to pay them in full by the deadline. Information pertaining to payment of the FY 2013 annual regulatory fees is available online at http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2013/db0816/FCC-13-110A1.pdf.

Annual regulatory fees are owed for most FCC authorizations held as of October 1, 2012 by any licensee/permittee that is not otherwise exempt from the payment of such fees. Licensees/permittees may review assessed fees using the FCC's Media Look-Up website - <http://www.fccfees.com>. *For your convenience, a copy of the FCC's new fee schedule, as it relates to broadcasters, is provided [here](#).* Regulatory fees for stations ancillary to broadcast operations, e.g., STLs, are also subject to regulatory fees which are not listed on the attached schedule.

Certain entities are exempt from payment of regulatory fees, including, for example, governmental and non-profit entities. Section 1.1162 of the FCC's Rules provides guidance on annual regulatory fee exemptions. Broadcast licensees that believe they qualify for an exemption may refer to the FCC's Media Look-Up website for instructions on submitting a Fee-Exempt Status Claim.

The FCC requires all filers to use FCC Form 159-E, which can be generated electronically from the FCC's website. Consequently, those authorization holders subject to annual regulatory fees, regardless of their preferred method of payment (i.e., check, credit card, money order or wire transfer), must prepare an FCC Form 159 using the Commission's online FeeFiler system, found at <http://www.fcc.gov/fees/feefiler.html>. If an authorization holder does not pay online, the holder must either (i) mail its full payment along with the completed FCC Form 159-E to: Federal Communications Commission, Regulatory Fees, P.O. Box 979084, St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000, or (ii) send its full payment along with the completed FCC Form 159-E by courier to: Federal Communications Commission, Regulatory Fees, C/O U.S. Bank - Government Lockbox 979084, SL-MO-C2-GL, 1005 Convention Plaza, St. Louis, Missouri 63101. The

FCC has stated that this year (FY 2013) is the last year that it will accept paper and check filings for payment of annual regulatory fees.

The penalty for late or non-payment of the annual regulatory fee is 25% of the total amount owed and not timely paid. In addition, the FCC will refuse to process a licensee's/permittee's applications until full payment, including any applicable penalty, has been paid. Failure to pay in full may also subject a regulatee to loss of its authorization(s).

For more information on annual regulatory fees, including assistance in preparing and filing them with the FCC, please contact any of the lawyers in Pillsbury's Communications Practice Section. If you have any questions about the content of this publication, please contact the authors below, or the Pillsbury attorney with whom you regularly work.

Tony Lin ([bio](#))
Washington, DC
+1.202.663.8452
tony.lin@pillsburylaw.com

Paul A. Cicelski ([bio](#))
Washington, DC
+1.202.663.8413
paul.cicelski@pillsburylaw.com

This publication is issued periodically to keep Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP clients and other interested parties informed of current legal developments that may affect or otherwise be of interest to them. The comments contained herein do not constitute legal opinion and should not be regarded as a substitute for legal advice.

© 2013 Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP. All Rights Reserved.