

NEW PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING TOWER LIGHT OUTAGES

Due to the recent closing of some of the FAA Flight Service Stations the reporting procedure for tower light outages has changed. You must call the new Lockheed Martin National Outage Reporting and NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) line at 877-487-6867 within 30 minutes of an outage. Be prepared to give your Antenna Structure Registration Number (ASRN). In some rare cases they could ask for the coordinates of your tower, and the location of the nearest airport.

In many cases, Lockheed Martin (LM) will not be able to give a NOTAM number immediately. They may promise to call you back with a NOTAM number but due to “limited resources” they may not call at all. Therefore, at a minimum to ensure you have a proper paper trail, it is highly recommended that you log the Date, Time, Operators Name, and Operators office location since they could transfer you to any LM office in the country.

David Dombrowski of the FCC’s Philadelphia field office suggests that stations check the FAA’s website the following day to make sure the NOTAM has been issued. When doing so it might be easier to search using the coordinates of your tower. This will retrieve a large text file with all the NOTAMs issued in that area. You will need to search thru the text document using your ASR Number to quickly find the NOTAM for your tower. While this is, no doubt, an inconvenience to all broadcasters, we will have to take these appropriate steps until LM comes up with a better method.

When using Internet Explorer 7 to view the FAA’s website, it will tell you it has an invalid security certificate. Disregard this instruction and click ***continue to the website*** and it will work.

The FAA’s Website is: <https://pilotweb.nas.faa.gov/distribution/atcsc.html>

After reporting the Outage you have up to 15 days to correct the outage. You must notify the FAA at the above number immediately upon resumption of normal operation of the lights so the NOTAM will be cancelled. Failure to do so will result in the FCC being notified! If the tower lights cannot be fixed within 15 days you must call the above number and extend the NOTAM.

The FCC has been conducting many tower inspections of late. Several PA stations have received fines for tower violations. David Dombrowski of the FCC's Philadelphia field office and I decided to write a quick reminder on the basic information for registered structures.

Registration - The antenna structure registration number must be posted in a conspicuous place near the base of the tower. Materials used to display the ASR Number must be weather resistant and of sufficient size to be easily seen at the base of the antenna structure. It is recommended that the tower owner also place the ASR Number at any access gates or fences. You should have a copy of the ASR posted at your control point. Instructions for calling the FAA and reporting an outage should be placed at all control points.

Observations: The tower owner is responsible to observe the obstruction lighting on all levels of the antenna structure either visually, or by automatic means, at least once every 24 hours. The automatic means must provide an indication that the obstruction lighting on any level of the antenna structure is extinguished or improperly functioning. Some automatic systems are designed only to indicate a complete failure of the obstruction lighting has occurred. Therefore, the tower owner may never be aware that a single level of obstruction lighting is extinguished. Such automatic systems do not meet the FCC requirements.

Logging - Tower owners must maintain a record of any observed or otherwise known extinguishment or improper functioning of a structure light and include the following information for such an event:

- The nature of the extinguishment or improper functioning;
- The date and time the event was observed or otherwise noted;
- The date and time of the FAA notification; and
- The date, time and nature of adjustments, repairs or replacements made

Painting and Lighting Specifications – The obstruction lighting on the antenna structure must comply with the requirements specified in the FCC Antenna Structure Registration and the FAA Determination of No Hazard. The tower owner may not install a dual lighting system in lieu of marking and lighting without prior approval from the FAA and FCC.

Ownership Information - The tower owner must notify the FCC of any change in ownership information for the antenna structure. If a licensee acquires a broadcast station license and the antenna structure from another party, the new licensee must notify the Commission on FCC Form 854 that a change in ownership of the antenna structure has occurred. Some

licensees incorrectly assume that the Commission would automatically update all of its ownership records including the Broadcast Station License, STL Licenses and Antenna Structure Registrations upon the consummation of assignment of license.

FAA Notification - The tower owner must notify the Lockheed Martin National Outage Reporting and NOTAM line at 877-487-6867 within 30 minutes of any observed or otherwise known extinguishment or improper functioning of any top steady burning light or any flashing light, regardless of its position on the structure. The FAA will normally issue a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) to notify all pilots of the aeronautical hazards posed by the improperly functioning light(s). Typically, the NOTAM will expire within 15 days unless the tower owner cancels or extends the NOTAM.

The tower owner must immediately notify the FAA upon resumption of normal operation of the light or lights so that the NOTAM may be cancelled.

You may call the Lockheed Martin National Outage Reporting and NOTAM Line at 877-487-6867 to report an outage, extend a NOTAM or notify the FAA that the outage has been repaired.

Towers Not Owned by Licensee

Each FCC licensee using a registered antenna structure should be familiar with the requirements set forth on FCC Form 854R. In the event that the structure owner is unable to maintain the prescribed painting or lighting, e.g., in cases including but not limited to abandonment, negligence, or bankruptcy, the FCC would require that each tenant licensee on the structure undertake efforts to maintain painting and/or lighting upon request by the FCC. Additionally, if a licensee has reason to believe that the structure is not in compliance or that the owner is not carrying out its responsibility to maintain the structure, the licensee must immediately notify the owner, notify the site management company (if applicable), notify the FCC, and make a diligent effort to ensure that the antenna structure is brought into compliance. Licensees can notify the FCC by calling the National Call Center at 1-888-225-5322 during business hours (8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time) or the FCC Watch Officer at (202) 632-6975 after business hours.

A licensee who does not own a structure is not required to independently monitor that antenna structure's lighting unless it specifically directed to do so by the Commission.

A licensee proposing to site on an antenna structure that requires registration must first verify

that the structure is registered (or that registration is not required) and be prepared to provide the Registration Number in its license application. Effective July 1, 1996, the FCC began requiring each applicant for a new or modified FCC license or construction permit to provide the Registration Number if the antenna will be mounted on a registered structure. See Public Notice ([text](#)) (rel. June 16, 1996). An application not containing a valid Registration Number will be dismissed, returned or subject to delayed processing, depending on the policies of the particular Bureau to which the application is submitted

Antenna structure owners are required to provide a copy of their antenna structure Registration (FCC Form 854R) to each tenant licensee and permittee sited on their structure. Because licensees need the registration number to complete license applications and renewals, licensees who have not received a copy of the 854R from their antenna structure owner should follow these procedures:

- Notify the structure owner. Try to obtain a copy of the Registration or, if the structure is not registered, remind the owner of his or her duty to register the structure if applicable.
- Notify the site management company (when applicable) if you are unable to locate or contact the owner.
- If you are unable to locate the owner or the owner is not cooperating, notify the Commission in writing. Send as much information as you have about the antenna structure (registration number, if it is registered, location coordinates, owner, etc.) and a brief description of the steps you have taken to obtain a copy of the Registration to:
_Federal Communications Commission _Analysis and Development Branch _1270 Fairfield Road _Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245 _Attn: ASR/854R
- The Commission will send you a copy of the Registration and will investigate the owner's apparent failure to comply with Commission Rules. If the structure is not registered, the Commission will immediately contact the owner to initiate the registration process.

A tenant or permittee should not register the structure unless specifically directed to by the Commission. Providing written notification will satisfy the requirement under Section 17.6 of the Commission's Rules (47 C.F.R. §17.6) that a tenant licensee or permittee "make a diligent effort to immediately bring the structure into compliance" with respect to structure registration. [Because owners are required to register structures, a tenant-filed registration would generally not be valid and would not be sufficient to bring a structure into compliance.]

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