



Corporation  
for Public  
Broadcasting

Office of the Inspector General

May 20, 2021

To: Jackie J. Livesay, Deputy General Counsel and Vice President, Compliance  
Michael Levy, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer  
Kathy Merritt, Senior Vice President, Radio, Journalism and CSG Services

From: Kimberly A. Howell, Inspector General

Subject: Evaluation of WVMR-AM Compliance with Selected Communications Act and  
Transparency Requirements as of March 22, 2021, Report No. ECR2103-2107

We have completed an unannounced evaluation of compliance with selected requirements of the 2021 Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) Community Service Grant (CSG) awarded to WVMR-AM, licensed to the Pocahontas Communications Cooperative Corporation, Dunmore, West Virginia. Our specific objectives were to verify compliance with twelve requirements of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (Act) for open and closed meetings and open financial records, as well as the CSG General Provisions and Eligibility Criteria (General Provisions) for transparency as presented in Exhibit A. Background information on the station and CSG program can be found in Exhibit B. Our scope and methodology are discussed in Exhibit C.

Based on our review of the WVMR-AM website on February 24 and March 4, 2021, we found the station was compliant with nine of the nine requirements applicable. The remaining three requirements tested were not applicable.

The station's response to the draft report is presented in Exhibit D.

We initiated this evaluation to address station accountability as identified in our Annual Plan. We conducted our evaluation in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*.

cc: Bruce M. Ramer, Chair, CPB Board of Directors  
Robert Mandell, Chair, Audit and Finance Committee, CPB Board of Directors  
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee

**Summary of WVMR-AM Website Review  
as of February 24, and March 4, 2021**

Requirements	Met	Not Met	Unable to Determine
<b>Station reviewed: WVMR-AM on 2/24/21 and 3/4/21</b>			
1) Seven-day advance notice of governing body meeting:			
a) available on website	X		
b) available by other means			
2) Seven-day advance notice of board committee meetings:			
a) available on website	N/A		
b) available by other means			
3) Seven-day advance notice of CAB meetings:			
a) available on website	X		
b) available by other means			
4) If closed meetings were held, was documentation prepared explaining the basis for closing meeting in accordance with the Act:			
a) available on website	N/A		
b) available at central office			
5) If closed meeting documentation was prepared, was it available within 10-days of the closed meeting	N/A		
6) Most recent AFR or FSR available on website	X		
7) Most recent audited financial statements or unaudited financial statements on website	X		
8) Senior/executive management information on website	X		
9) Governing body members on website	X		
10) CAB members on website	X		
11) Diversity Statement:			
a) available on website	X		
b) available at central office			
12) Most recent Local Service Content Report (Section 6 of the SAS):			
a) available on website	X		
b) available at central office			

## **Background**

WVMR-AM, Dunmore, West Virginia, is a public broadcasting station licensed to the Pocahontas Communications Cooperative Corporation, a non-profit organization founded for educational and charitable purposes and to operate community radio stations. WVMR-AM went on the air in August of 1981.

The station's website states that it "exists for the following purposes:

- To provide timely and accurate reports of local and state events, including weather, news, and community happenings
- To provide a forum open to all residents of the area for the discussion of public issues
- To provide music and entertainment to our audience
- To promote the economic development and general well-being of the area
- To train local residents to use the medium of radio to express their thoughts, feelings, and talents."

### ***CPB's Community Service Grant Program***

The Act provides that specific percentages of the appropriated funds CPB receives annually from the United States Treasury must be allocated and distributed to licensees and permittees of public TV and radio stations. CPB distributes these funds through its CSG program. Grant award amounts are based in part on the amount of Non-Federal Financial Support (revenues) claimed by all stations on their Annual Financial Reports (AFR) and Financial Summary Reports (FSR) submitted to CPB.

In addition to the annual filing of a station's AFR(s) or FSR for radio and/or television, the chief executive of the station and a licensee official annually certify to CPB the station's compliance with Act requirements and selected General Provisions requirements in the legal agreement awarding the station CSG funds.

These certifications specifically address Open and Closed Meetings; Open Financial Records; Community Advisory Board, CPB Employment Statistical Report; and Donor information requirements under Section IV Communications Act Compliance of the agreement. Station officials responsible for closed meetings and the CPB Employment Statistical Report requirements are identified in the grant agreement. The certification also includes Website Postings Required under Section V. Selected General Provisions Requirements of the agreement.

## Scope and Methodology

We performed an evaluation of WVMR-AM's compliance with selected CSG provisions of the Act and grant certification requirements. Our specific objectives were to verify compliance with selected Act requirements for open and closed meetings and open financial records, as well as Radio Community Service Grants General Provisions and Eligibility Criteria for Transparency. The scope of the evaluation included reviews of the information posted on the station's website as of February 25 and March 4, 2021, as well as information provided in response to our Preliminary Observations received on March 22, 2021.

We reviewed documents supporting the station's compliance with the Act requirements to provide advance notice of public meetings; notice of closed meeting reasons; and make financial information available to the public. We also reviewed the station's website and processes to determine its compliance with CPB's transparency requirements for eligibility. We informed station management of our evaluation on March 18, 2021 and we requested additional information to support the station's compliance, including as applicable transparency information maintained at its central office for documents that are required to be made available to the public at its central office if not posted on its website.

We also reviewed CPB's Integrated Station Information System (ISIS) to determine if the evaluated information made available to the public was the most recent information submitted to CPB. In addition, we verified with station management that board and management listings posted to its website were current.

Our fieldwork was conducted from February through March 2021 and our evaluation was performed in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*.

## Station Response to Draft Report

Exhibit D



WVLS - 89.7 FM

PO Box 431

Monterey, VA 24465

540-468-1234 Fax 540-468-1233

Main Office

WVMR - 1370 AM

9836 Browns Creek Road

Dunmore, WV 24934

304-799-6004 Fax 304-799-7444

WCHG - 107.1 FM

PO Drawer G

Hot Springs, VA 24445

540-839-5400 Fax 540-839-5403

WVMR-FM - 91.9 FM

WNMP - 88.5 FM

WDMT - 106.3 FM

W278AL - 103.5 FM

### Your Listener Supported Community Radio Stations

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Kimberly A. Howell  
Inspector General  
Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Office Of Inspector General  
401 Ninth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005-2129

Ms. Howell,

We are greatly pleased that your evaluation of Allegheny Mountain Radio/WVMR-AM found that we are in compliance with all requirements, as applicable, for meetings, financial records and transparency.

As noted in Exhibit B of your reports, AMR exists:

- To provide timely and accurate reports of local and state events, including weather, news, and community happenings
- To provide a forum open to all residents of the area for the discussion of public issues
- To provide music and entertainment to our audience
- To promote the economic development and general well-being of the area
- To train local residents to use the medium of radio to express their thoughts, feelings, and talents

We are dedicated to offering these services to our community, and our ability to do so is directly dependent upon the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and Community Service Grants. Bluntly stated, without this critical funding, we could not exist and serve our community in our current capacity.

Therefore, we take our requirements to keep ourselves in good standing very seriously, both to maintain our eligibility and to retain the faith and trust of the public.

I thank you for your assistance in this evaluation process. As noted to you via phone, I have found my interactions with CPG/CSG personnel to be a pleasure, and I look forward to our continued work together.

Sincerely,

Scott Smith  
General Manager  
Allegheny Mountain Radio  
9836 Browns Creek Road  
Dunmore, WV 24934