

# NEWS

## From GEORGIA TECH'S ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION

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GEORGIA TECH RECOMMENDS

August 23, 1979

FCC ALTER REGULATIONS

For Immediate Release

There's something unique under the sun--a federal agency trying to cut its own red tape.

The Federal Communications Commission did just that when it asked Georgia Tech to study its regulations on radio and television stations and recommend changes.

The researchers found that not only could many of the FCC's regulations be altered but many could simply be eliminated.

In a "Broadcast Regulation Trade-Off Study," presented to the FCC in June, Richard Moss and Robert Rice of Tech's Engineering Experiment Station, recommended that the FCC alter or eliminate some technical aspects of their regulations.

The study team recommended that the FCC stop regulating "how-to" technical aspects of broadcast stations' operations. Some examples cited were logging, performance checks, and the verification of the qualifications of technical personnel by operator licensing.

The report says that the Commission's current technical logging requirements are not necessary to assure signal quality or to prevent interferences. Engineers are now required to keep periodic records, or logs, of signal transmission and equipment performance.

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In addition, the report says that compliance with FCC regulations can be verified less expensively by monitoring than by on-site inspection. Monitoring is done by checking the reception of signals from a remote point away from the radio or television station. On-site inspection consists of an actual visit to a station by FCC checkers. Both methods currently are used.

The researchers also found that an elimination of some of these technical aspects of FCC regulations could lift a significant amount of costs from broadcasters. Rice and Moss estimate that radio and television stations annually spend about \$200 million to verify and demonstrate compliance with FCC's technical requirements.

Moss said that if certain regulations were deleted or modified that compliance costs would be reduced without significantly sacrificing quality. He added that the amount would not go zero because of activities such as maintenance programs viewed as necessary by the broadcasters themselves.

Last February, in an advance review of the report, the Commission adopted one of the study's recommendations when it eliminated the examination requirement for routine duty operators at FM and non-directional AM stations.