



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

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NJPBA Announces Proceeds from FCC Spectrum Auction

TRENTON – The New Jersey Public Broadcasting Authority (“NJPBA”) announced that it will receive a payment as a result of participating in the Federal Communication Commission (“FCC”) Broadband Spectrum Auction. The FCC auction represented a unique opportunity for the NJPBA to relinquish its surplus broadband spectrum and monetize the asset without diminishing the availability of program service to New Jersey viewers. The NJPBA’s multi-year agreement with Public Media NJ for the provision of news, public affairs and a wide range of “Jersey-centric” and educational programming remains in effect and will not be impacted by this action.

The FCC’s 2010 National Broadband plan called for freeing up spectrum – or airwaves – for wireless broadband use by redirecting spectrum originally reserved for broadcast television. In early 2016, the FCC afforded broadcasters around the nation a unique opportunity to participate in an auction to repurpose TV broadcast spectrum for wireless use to facilitate delivery of more broadband options to consumers, such as streaming video, that use large amounts of bandwidth. The nationwide auction concluded in February 2017 and the FCC publicly disclosed the final results today.

The NJPBA operates two stations that serve Northern and Central New Jersey – WNJB Channel 8 New Brunswick and WNJN Channel 51 Montclair, and two stations serving Southern New Jersey – WNJS Channel 22 Camden and WNJT Channel 43 Trenton. Current digital broadcast technology and the widespread penetration of cable and satellite reception of television signals make it possible for the NJPBA to relinquish a portion of its surplus broadband spectrum, without any

negative effect on NJPBA's broadcast coverage throughout the State. As a result of the Broadband Spectrum Auction, WNJB and WNJN will share the broadcast spectrum previously associated only with WNJB. Similarly, WNJT and WNJS will share the broadcast spectrum previously associated only with WNJS.

The FCC's final bid prices for broadcast spectrum that the NJPBA can free up through this channel sharing arrangement is as follows:

Station	Relinquish Spectrum
WNJN-TV	\$193,892,273
WNJT-TV	\$138,059,363

Additional information about the FCC Incentive Auction can be found here:

<https://www.fcc.gov/about-fcc/fcc-initiatives/incentive-auctions>

Because the spectrum auction was a reverse auction, all participating broadcasters competed against each other, while prices descended during the auction process. Opening bid prices set by the FCC represented mere projections of the maximum amount that could be paid to the NJPBA. Actual clearance prices, beyond the NJPBA's control, were expected to be lower as the FCC progressively reduced the amount it was willing to pay for excess spectrum due to factors such as supply and demand.

"The results of the FCC auction are a win-win," said John Blair, Executive Director of the NJPBA. "NJPBA was able to monetize its surplus assets while continuing to provide New Jersey-centric programming across the State. NJPBA remains committed to our valued viewers and providing quality public television service in New Jersey."

Receipt of auction proceeds is not anticipated until after July 1, 2017.

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