

WPSC goes FM

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After waiting for 15 years, WPSC Radio received an FM Construction Permit from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on July 14, 1986, said Bob Brouillard, WPSC general manager. Students will be able to hear the campus radio station on FM within 18 months.

WPSC first applied to the FCC for an FM license back in 1971. Now that the construction permit is granted, WPSC must put up its 200 watt transmitter. If WPSC does not do this in 18 months, an FM license will not be granted, Brouillard said. Once the transmitter is up, FCC has ten days to go around to different areas to test for a strong signal and make sure there is no interference with other stations.

The channel reserved for WPSC is 88.7 on the FM dial. Brouillard explained that this channel used to be occupied by WRRH of Indian Hills High School, Oakland, NJ, until it came into violation of a 1981 FCC ruling which stated that they must improve their 10 watt transmitter to 100 watts to be a commercial station. After all this came

about, FCC was reviewing WPSC's application and granted the permit, Brouillard said.

If all goes well, the license that will be granted to WPSC is an educational license which means that no advertising may be broadcasted from the station. Between lawyer and engineer fees, it has cost WPSC between \$15,000 and \$20,000 to get as far as they are now in obtaining an FM license, stated Brouillard. According to Program Manager Pat Cioffi, the money has come from "a combination of sources."

The actual changes that the station will undergo involve the installation of the transmitter which will cost WPSC about \$30,000, Brouillard stated. He added that WPSC hopes to obtain some of this money from alumni and Foundation donations. The studio equipment such as control boards, reel-to-reel and turntables will not need any major improvements or changes, according to Brouillard.

Although WPSC does not have the actual FM license at present, Brouillard and the board members at WPSC are not hesitating to get a professional airstaff together. Brouillard is looking at spring semester for WPSC to be broadcasting on the FM station.



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