ABIP Inspections Available to NMBA Members

A Cost-Effective Way to Help Ensure Your Station Is FCC Compliant

The New Mexico Broadcasters Association is pleased to let members know that **John J. Baich of Sangre de Cristo Broadcast Consulting, LLC** is offering Alternative Broadcast Inspection Program (ABIP) inspections to New Mexico radio and television stations at a minimal cost to participating stations.

John is an experienced broadcast engineer and ABIP inspector who understands the realities of operating broadcast stations, particularly in smaller and rural markets. His goal is to make the inspection process practical, affordable and useful to New Mexico broadcasters.

The NMBA will help make members aware of this opportunity, but **stations will work directly with John to schedule their inspections and complete the ABIP process. The NMBA will not collect fees or administer the inspections.**

What Is ABIP?

The Alternative Broadcast Inspection Program was established in cooperation with the FCC to help broadcasters identify and correct potential compliance issues before they become violations.

Stations that successfully complete an ABIP inspection and receive certification are generally exempt from routine random FCC inspections for **three years**.

ABIP certification does not prevent the FCC from investigating or responding to complaints involving a station. What it does provide is an opportunity for broadcasters to have an experienced third party review their operations, identify potential problems and correct them through the ABIP process.

Stations that have participated in ABIP previously should check the expiration date on their current certificate. If your certification will expire, your station has never participated in ABIP,

or there have been significant operational or technical changes at your station, this may be a good time to consider an inspection.

What Does an ABIP Inspection Include?

John begins much of the review before arriving at the station. He can remotely inspect the station's Public File and review electronic copies of specific EAS and transmitter logs. Stations that prefer to handle those materials during the on-site visit can do that as well.

During the **studio inspection**, John will meet with the Chief Operator and, when available, the General Manager. The review covers equipment, station operations, procedures, policies and the station's general facilities. A typical studio visit takes approximately two to four hours.

The **transmitter site inspection** includes a review of technical performance, tower condition, signage and documentation, along with an air check. The Chief Operator and/or Transmitter Engineer should be available for this portion of the inspection. The transmitter inspection typically takes about an hour, excluding travel time.

What Happens If John Finds Something?

That is one of the advantages of ABIP.

Once an inspection is scheduled and the appropriate notification is made to the FCC, the station receives a **150-day grace period** to address and resolve issues identified through the inspection process.

Following the inspection, John provides the Chief Operator and General Manager with a comprehensive written report, typically six to ten pages, outlining his observations, any corrections necessary for certification and recommended practices.

John will then work directly with the station during the grace period to help address identified issues and achieve certification.

Why Consider ABIP?

For participating stations, ABIP provides:

- A professional third-party review of your station's FCC compliance
- An opportunity to identify and correct potential problems before they become FCC violations
- Three years of protection from routine random FCC inspections following certification
- Documentation demonstrating the station's attention to regulatory compliance
- Access to an experienced broadcast engineer who can help guide the station through the process

John will coordinate inspections geographically whenever possible to help minimize travel time and costs for participating stations. Seasonal access to transmitter sites will also be considered when scheduling.

Interested? Here's What to Do

Stations interested in participating should **contact John Baich directly** to discuss the program, cost and scheduling for their station.

John J. Baich
ABIP Inspector
Sangre de Cristo Broadcast Consulting, LLC

Once you contact John, he will work directly with your station to schedule the inspection, explain what he will need in advance and guide you through the process.

The NMBA is pleased to help connect our members with resources that can make regulatory compliance a little easier and more affordable. Participation in the ABIP program is entirely voluntary, and all inspection arrangements and services are between the participating station and Sangre de Cristo Broadcast Consulting, LLC.