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# FCC Will Let Murdoch Keep TV Stations

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The Federal Communications Commission will formally declare next week that Rupert Murdoch's purchase of six big-city TV stations a decade ago is in the public interest and should be allowed to stand, despite violating a law that limits foreign TV holdings, industry and government sources said yesterday.

The ruling will cap a two-year FCC

investigation of Murdoch that culminated in May when the FCC said Murdoch's Australia-based company, News Corp., violated the foreign ownership rule in 1986. However, the agency said then that the violation was unintentional, and Murdoch wouldn't be required to sell the stations if Fox Broadcasting Co. could show that its ownership structure served the public interest.

Since the FCC's May ruling, Fox solicited supportive statements from a variety of sources, including NFL Com-

missioner Paul Tagliabue, Fox station-affiliate owners and the heads of organizations representing minority groups. The NAACP, however, which first raised the ownership issue, filed statements in opposition.

FCC approval next week would enable Fox to proceed with acquiring new TV stations that had been held up by the investigation.

"We're happy they're reaching the right result," said Fox attorney William Reyner. The NAACP had no comment.

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