WASHINGTON, May 14 (Bloomberg News) — The Federal Communications Commission is trying to devise rules aimed at breaking the hold Clear Channel Communications has on radio markets in some rural areas, a commissioner, Kathleen Abernathy, said today.

The five commissioners, led by the chairman, Michael K. Powell, are trying to redefine radio markets as part of their June 2 vote on new media-ownership rules, Ms. Abernathy said at a news conference. Clear Channel, which is based in San Antonio, is the largest owner of radio stations in the nation. It is the focus of bipartisan concern on the commission, said Ms. Abernathy, a Republican.

"Because of the way our markets are defined, in certain markets they've clearly acquired more power than we would have wanted," she said. "Everyone agrees this is something we have to fix."

Senator Byron Dorgan, a North Dakota Democrat, has called attention to Clear Channel's ownership of six of the eight radio stations in Minot, N.D. The company's growth has accelerated since the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which lifted restrictions on national radio ownership in an effort to help the struggling industry.

Clear Channel, which owns 11 percent of the 11,000 radio stations in the country, wants the radio-ownership rule kept as it is.

"Clear Channel has brought many radio stations back from the dead and has increased the amount of news coverage and local public affairs," said Andrew Levin, a senior vice president at Clear Channel. "We believe the problem is confined to quirks in a few rural areas, like Minot, and we're concerned about unintended consequences of changing the rule."

Ms. Abernathy said one approach the commissioners were considering would require Clear Channel to sell some stations. One issue under review is how much flexibility to allow the company if it wants to sell a number of stations in one market to a single purchaser, she said.