

Request for Extension of Special Temporary Authorization

Cumulus Licensing LLC (“Cumulus”), pursuant to Section 73.1635 of the FCC’s rules, hereby requests that the initial special temporary authorization (“STA”) for radio station WXQW(AM), Fairhope, Alabama (Facility ID 2541) (File No. BSTA-20100604AFU, as extended, *inter alia*, by File No. BESTA-20180112AAJ), be extended for an additional 180 days.

Station WXQW is licensed to operate on 660 kHz with 10 kW daytime nondirectional, and 0.85 kW at night, employing a directional antenna. As Cumulus has previously informed the Commission, one of the towers in WXQW’s nighttime directional antenna system sustained significant damage when it was struck by a truck to the extent that it required replacement. The FCC granted Cumulus authority to operate WXQW with parameters at variance and/or reduced power at night while maintaining monitor points within licensed limits. BSTA-20100604AFU.

Cumulus filed two (2) construction permit applications since obtaining that initial STA. Cumulus initially filed a construction permit application to modify WXQW’s nighttime facilities to operate directionally with 0.18 kW effective radiated power, while maintaining the existing daytime operation and power of 10 kW. File No. BP-20150821AAF, granted January 20, 2016. The modification proposal changed WXQW’s station class from a Class B to a Class D facility. Cumulus initiated the process of designing the phasing networks necessary to construct the Class D facility, but subsequently determined that it would not be economically practical to implement the facilities authorized in BP-20150821AAF.

Accordingly, Cumulus filed a subsequent construction permit application for WXQW on January 18, 2017 (File No. BP-20170118ABN) proposing a non-directional operation with reduced power during nighttime hours. That application was granted on May 31, 2017. Cumulus obtained quotes for the parts necessary to implement the construction permit, and retained both a consultant and a tower crew for purposes of constructing the detuning skirt.

Since that time, Cumulus has obtained all of the equipment necessary to detune the second tower at WXQW’s transmitter site. The tower crew has made a concerted effort to get the detuning skirt on the tower before the expiration of the current STA deadline. Their efforts have been hampered, however, by significant rain in the Mobile area in the past couple weeks. Cumulus’ engineering consultant has informed Cumulus that, once the installation of the detuning skirt is completed, he is prepared to come to the WXQW transmitter site and complete the project.

For the reasons stated herein, Cumulus respectfully requests a further extension of the existing STA for a period of 180 days pursuant to Section 73.1635 of the Commission’s rules to operate WXQW with parameters at variance and/or reduced power while maintaining monitor points within licensed limits. The requested extension will serve the public interest because it will enable WXQW to continue to serve the residents of Fairhope, Alabama and the immediate surrounding area until it can complete construction of the facilities authorized by BP-20170118ABN and file a covering license application.