

Request for Special Temporary Authorization

Santa Monica Community College District (“SMCCD”), a political subdivision of the State of California, is governed by a publicly-elected board of trustees and operates Santa Monica Community College, which is located in Santa Monica, California. Pursuant to Section 73.1635 of the FCC’s rules, SMCCD hereby requests a special temporary authorization (“STA”) for FM translator station K214CR, Twentynine Palms, California (Facility ID No. 83662) (“K214CR”), to operate on Channel 207 from a new transmitter site with an effective radiated power of 10 watts for a period not to exceed one hundred twenty (120) days, or until the FCC grants a pending application to modify the facilities authorized in construction permit BPFT-20130709AAF (the “CP”), filed June 13, 2014 (File No. BMPFT-20140613AAN) (“Modification Application”).

In issuing the CP on February 6, 2014, the FCC granted an application to modify K214CR’s licensed facilities by relocating its transmitter site 0.4 kilometers (0.3 miles) to a new site, and changing its frequency from Channel 214 to Channel 207. As explained in the waiver request accompanying the CP application, SMCCD found it necessary to modify K214CR’s licensed facilities for two reasons: First, the tower upon which K214CR’s antenna was previously located was mounted on a building owned by the U.S. Navy in Twentynine Palms. The Navy had informed SMCCD that the building upon which the tower had been located was going to be torn down in the Fall of 2013 and that its lease would be terminated at that time. As a result, K214CR has lost its licensed transmitter site.¹ SMCCD also informed the Commission that K214CR was soon going to be displaced by a new noncommercial FM station to be licensed to Yucca Valley, California which is authorized to operate on first-adjacent Channel 213A (File No. BNPED-20071022ABF, as modified by BMPED-20130705AAB).

The new noncommercial FM station – KNLM(FM), Yucca Valley, California – is now a licensed facility and is operating from the same transmitter site and the same tower height authorized in SMCCD’s CP. BLED-20140206AJW. In other words, SMCCD has been effectively displaced on its tower by KNLM. Thus, although SMCCD has filed its Modification Application, it cannot return to operate from its former licensed site because the Navy required SMCCD to vacate the premises and, accordingly, SMCCD has removed its transmission equipment from that location. Thus, in the absence of a grant of this STA request, K214CR will be forced to remain off the air until the Commission acts on its pending Modification Application.

On the other hand, the requested STA would provide substantial public interest benefits because it would enable K214CR to continue to provide the residents of Twentynine Palms, California with the noncommercial educational programming of primary station KCRW(FM), Santa Monica, California, who have received such programming from K214CR for more than 15 years. This is significant because K214CR is the only radio station airing National Public Radio programming in the area. Furthermore, the technical facilities proposed in this STA request are identical to those contained in the pending Modification Application.

¹ Fortunately for SMCCD, the Navy permitted K214CR to continue operating from its former licensed site well beyond the Fall of 2013.

For all of these reasons, SMCCD requests an STA for K214CR to operate with the technical parameters specified herein for a period not to exceed 120 days, or until the Commission grants the pending Modification Application, whichever is less.