

Request for Special Temporary Authority

Station WSTE currently operates on analog Channel 7 employing a unique island-wide multi-transmitter system. This system was designed and permanently licensed by the FCC to overcome signal blockage resulting from Puerto Rico's mountainous terrain, permitting the station to provide service to the entire island on a single channel. The FCC noted the unique nature of this facility in Footnote 168 of the *Seventh Report and Order and Eighth Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making* in MB Docket No. 87-268, and instructed the Media Bureau to process and grant "the applications that will permit WSTE to continue serving its [analog] coverage area with its digital signal."

In May 2008, WSTE filed an application seeking a construction permit which would permit the station to convert its multi-transmitter analog facilities to digital. See FCC File No. BPCDT-20080528AAQ. After the application was filed, the FCC authorized and implemented DTS service which contemplates operations similar to those proposed by WSTE in its original application. See *In the Matter of Digital Television Distributed Transmission Systems*, MB Docket No. 05-312 (Nov. 7, 2008) (the "DTS Order"). In discussions with FCC staff subsequent to the adoption of the DTS Order, the staff has requested that WSTE apply for an island-wide DTS operation via an application for Special Temporary Authority ("STA") pursuant to the interim policies. When the necessary FCC forms are made available, the station will file for permanent DTS operations to continue providing island-wide service. In the meantime, grant of this STA will permit the station to construct the facilities necessary to permit a relatively seamless transition to a DTS system when the newly-revised DTV transition date occurs.

Accordingly, WSTE requests an STA to initiate the DTS operations set forth in the attached engineering exhibit. Grant of this application will permit the station to continue to provide island-wide service to the population of Puerto Rico after the digital transition with no adverse impact on any other station.