

WKBN-TV, Youngstown, Ohio (Facility ID No. 73153) (“WKBN”) currently provides analog service on channel 27 and pre-transition digital service on channel 41. In the DTV channel election process, WKBN elected to remain on channel 41 following the DTV transition.

WKBN provides digital service on channel 41 with a side-mounted antenna and operates pursuant to Special Temporary Authority (“STA”). *See* FCC File Nos. BDSTA-20060419ACD and BEDSTA-20080102ABI.¹ Because of the harshness of winter in Youngstown, Ohio, and in order to provide analog service to Youngstown residents through the end of the DTV transition, WKBN respectfully requests STA to pursue an alternative buildout under the provisions of paragraphs 94 through 96 of the Commission’s *Report and Order*, MB Docket No. 07-91, FCC 07-228 (rel. Dec. 31, 2007) (the “Order”).

In order to obtain STA for alternative buildout, broadcasters must satisfy two criteria: (a) a unique technical challenge that warrants alternative buildout, and (b) the ability to provide post-transition service to at least 85 percent of the same population that receives a station’s analog and digital service. *See* Order, ¶ 94. WKBN satisfies both criteria. First, the station faces the type of “unique technical challenge” that the Commission envisioned in paragraph 53 of the Order: the continued operation of its analog facilities prevents the station from installing a top-mounted channel 41 antenna for post-transition operations. Second, as demonstrated elsewhere in this request for STA, WKBN will be able to provide post-transition digital service to all of the population within its current Grade B analog service contour and 95.4% of the population within its authorized post-transition DTV contour. Thus, WKBN is eligible for STA to pursue an alternative buildout of its final digital facilities.

If the Commission grants this request for STA, on January 18, 2009, WKBN will begin airing the viewer notifications specified in paragraph 91 of the Order.

¹ Because of the unique technical challenges involved in moving the station’s side-mounted digital antenna to a top-mounted position, the Commission extended the station’s construction deadline to February 17, 2009. *See* Public Notice DA 08-1672 (rel. July 17, 2008).