

KWYB (TV), Butte, Montana
Facility ID 14674

Purpose of This Application

Cowles Montana Media Company (“CMMC”) licensee of KWYB (TV), Butte, Montana seeks Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) to continue operation at reduced power while it takes the steps necessary to replace the station’s failing transmitter.

On July 14, 2016, CMMC notified the Commission that KWYB was operating at approximately 40% of its authorized power because of a transmitter malfunction. Since that time CMMC has determined that the best course of action is probably replacing the transmitter and the company is currently taking the steps necessary to implement this solution.

Because operations at the station’s authorized power will not be resumed within thirty days, CMMC is requesting a 180-day STA in accordance with Sections 73.1560(d) and 73.1635 of the Commission’s rules. CMMC is seeking authority to continue operations out of compliance with Section 73.1560(c), which requires full-power broadcast television stations to operate at no less than 80% of their authorized power.

While the station is being restored to full authorized power, KWYB will continue to provide local news, sports, and weather, the ABC and FOX television networks, and other programming in the public interest to Montana viewers, including those receiving the station’s signal through cable or satellite services which will be unaffected by the reduced power. Accordingly, grant of this STA will serve the public interest.