

EXPLANATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES
REQUEST FOR SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY (STA)
TELEVISION STATION WMBC-TV
NEWTON, NEW JERSEY
CHANNEL 18

The instant Request for Special Temporary Authority (STA) was prepared due to a failure in the transmission system for the WMBC-TV DTS (Site 1) facility, which is located in Montclair, New Jersey. On or about January 31, 2017, a very high reflected transmitter power for the WMBC-TV DTS (Site 1) resulted in automatic transmitter shutdown. Transmitter power was then later restored at only 4% of nominal power.

Tower riggers inspected the WMBC-TV transmission line on February 3, 2017 and evidence of transmission line burn on the upper 3-inch section that feeds the top-mounted antenna was observed.

The licensee has been in contact with the antenna and transmission line manufacturer, Dielectric, in order to devise a plan for replacement of the burnt sections and cleaning of the remaining affected portions of transmission line.

To avoid risk of additional damage, WMBC-TV DTS (Site 1) has been taken off the air and will remain so until repairs have been completed. Lower power operation during the course of the repairs may be possible at some intermediate power as yet to be determined depending on the situation.

The licensee anticipates a return to normal operations within 30 days, or sooner. In the meantime, WMBC-TV DTS (Site 2), which is located at the Empire State Building, continues to broadcast normally.

Given that the events described above were beyond the control of licensee, and that this notification is being provided to the Commission within 10 days, licensee understands that, pursuant to Sec. 73.1740(a)(4) of the rules, it is entitled to maintain discontinued or reduced operations for a period of up to 30 days (through March 3, 2017) without further authority from the FCC. Nevertheless, licensee is submitting this formal STA request pursuant to Sec. 73.1635(a) in the event the repairs take longer than anticipated, i.e., up to 180 days. In accordance with Sec 73.1740(a)(4), licensee will notify the Commission promptly upon restoration of normal operation, and will continue to adhere to all other applicable operational requirements, including those pertaining to the lighting of antenna structures.