

SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS AND REQUEST FOR SILENT STA

WSBN-TV operates as part of the Blue Ridge Public Broadcasting network of three stations and programming is provided to it and to WMSY-TV via a microwave link from the licensee's flagship station, WBRA-TV. WSBN-TV has been off the air since March 27, 2017 because of serious technical problems, including the failure of the transmitter. The nature of the failure suggests circuit board or related components in the "CAN" system have been damaged, probably from a power surge caused by lightning or power line overvoltage. The licensee needs to determine what parts, if any, might still be available from the manufacturer for this 18 year-old transmitter. A secondary problem seems to be the "IPA". It appears the two power supplies that power this unit are inoperable. These models of power supplies were discontinued years ago. We had had a company rebuilding ours, as they failed, and also removed and used the ones from the analog transmitters. We presently have no spares. The cost of modification kits designed to permit use of more recent supplies combined with the cost of all new power supplies is prohibitive for a public broadcast licensee currently on a tight budget. To complicate matters, in an unrelated development the microwave link that provides programming to the station failed at the same time. Given these technical issues, we request grant of special temporary authority for the station to remain dark for longer than 30 days while we complete diagnosis of and determine how best to address the problems.