

Permian Basin Public Telecommunications, Inc., licensee of public television Station KPBT-TV, Midland, Texas (FAC ID 50044), hereby requests a legal STA for an extension of the transition construction permit application deadline because of a structural issue that prevents implementation of its transition assignment. The station is currently on Channel 38, which will be out of band, and has been assigned Channel 28 in Phase 1. The licensee has determined, working with its engineering consultant, that construction of the assigned facilities is not possible.

The licensee rents antenna space on a tower owned by Gray Television and used for Gray's STL operations and by other renters. That tower is fully wind-loaded and the addition of even the smallest available Channel 28 antenna could not meet the requirements of ANSI/TIA Revision F, much less the current Revision G. The licensee has determined that the only possible method to strengthen the tower would be to drill additional anchors, but that measure is not feasible because of the configuration of the building underneath the tower.

The licensee has searched and identified only one other tower in the general area suitable for mounting a television antenna, which is the tower owned by Gray Television on which the antenna of its Station KOSA-TV, Odessa, Texas is mounted. That tower is 14.4 miles from the licensee's existing KPBT-TV transmitting location. A Gray Television representative has stated informally that space is available on that tower suitable for a KPBT-TV Channel 28 antenna. However, the KPBT-TV consulting engineer has advised that from that location the station could meet the 1% limit on contour extension or the 95% coverage requirement, but almost certainly not both. For confirmation, he has submitted to a well-known antenna manufacturer a proposed antenna pattern that theoretically could accomplish that goal, but does not believe that any manufacturer would be able to fabricate such an antenna.

The consulting engineer advises that the station could stay on its existing channel during the repack without a waiver of the 1% contour limit. Based on an interference study, the station could in fact broadcast on Channel 28 from the target location at higher power that would fully meet all repack coverage goals and restrictions without generating interference domestically in the pre-repack or post-repack environment. However it does not know whether Mexican coordination constraints would pose a problem.

In these circumstances, the licensee requests grant of STA to extend the July 12, 2017 construction permit filing deadline for the time needed to work around this structural issue and preserve to the fullest possible extent the sole public television coverage which it provides to its viewing area.