

Request for Extension of Special Temporary Authorization

TV Translator Station K13AA-D/K10QW-D, Healy, AK (Facility ID 189985)

Pursuant to Sections 74.780 and 73.1635 of the FCC's Rules, the University of Alaska (the "University"), respectfully requests an extension of the Special Temporary Authorization ("STA") granted under temporary call sign K13AA-D for TV translator K10QW-D, Healy, Alaska and allowing operation of the channel 13 displacement facilities proposed in its pending modification permit application in FCC File No. 0000029054.

The University filed the initial channel 13 displacement STA application on August 4, 2017 in FCC File No. 0000029159. The FCC granted the STA on August 8, 2017, and the STA is currently due to expire on February 8, 2018.

As explained in the initial STA application, the channel 13 displacement is necessary because extensive testing determined that it is not possible for the authorized K10QW-D channel 10 facility to receive a signal from its parent noncommercial education station KUAC-TV, channel 9 in Fairbanks, Alaska, without significant interference. Switching the translator to channel 13, as proposed in the pending displacement modification alleviates the interference problem and allows for current operation of the translator station.

The University understands that the pending displacement modification application may not be processed at this time due to considerations related to the on-going Incentive Auction repacking process and LPTV/TV translator displacement procedures.¹ However, the existing STA allows the University to operate its Healy, Alaska TV translator on channel 13 as proposed in the displacement filing while that application remains pending and until it may be processed following the close of the upcoming Special Displacement Window.² The pending displacement application in File No. 0000029054 demonstrates that the STA technical facility complies with the FCC's technical and interference rules.

The University respectfully submits that a grant of an STA extension will serve the public interest by extending the current authorization for the translator's operation and provision of noncommercial educational programming (rebroadcasting the University's co-owned KUAC-TV) for viewers in the area of Healy, Alaska, where service is extremely limited. As noted in the displacement filing, Healy is a bush/mining community of approximately 500 persons. Prior to submitting the initial STA request, the University received phone calls from the area seeking assistance to receive programming. The University had attempted several technical fixes to correct the interference issues preventing use of the channel 10 facility authorized by the station's original permit grant, but they were unsuccessful. Thus, the use of the channel 13 STA

¹ See *Freeze on the Filing of Applications for Digital Replacement Translator Stations and Displacement Applications*, Public Notice, 29 FCC Rcd 6063 (MB 2014) (*Displacement Freeze Public Notice*). The channel 13 displacement modification application in File No. 0000029054 requested a waiver of the filing freeze due to new or actual interference.

² See, e.g., *Incentive Auction Task Force and Media Bureau Set Forth Tools Available to LPTV/Translator Stations Displaced Prior to the Special Displacement Window*, DA 17-584, MB Docket No. 16-306, GN Docket No. 12-268 (June 14, 2017).

operation provides the best option for providing service the area pending the processing of the displacement permit application.

The University of Alaska is a noncommercial educational licensee and operates this station on a noncommercial educational basis to rebroadcast the signal of its co-owned noncommercial educational television station KUAC(TV), Fairbanks, Alaska. The licensee is therefore exempt from FCC filing fee requirements, pursuant to Section 1.1116 of the Commission's Rules, and the facility is exempt from FCC regulatory fees, pursuant to Section 1.1162 of the Rules.