

Request for Special Temporary Authority

Alpha Broadcasting Corporation (“Alpha”), licensee of WZVI(DT), Charlotte Amalie, VI (Fac. ID No. 83270), hereby requests Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) to commence operations on WZVI’s post-auction repack Channel 21 during the station’s transition period (beginning July 1, 2018 and ending August 1, 2018) with a temporary, interim transmitter and antenna. As set forth below, such interim STA operation will allow WZVI to promptly restore service to its viewers while the station works to complete the post-auction repack Channel 21 facilities specified in its Construction Permit. *See* FCC File No. 0000034334.

Like many other stations in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, WZVI suffered major damage to its transmission facilities in September 2017 as a result of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, forcing the station off the air.<sup>1</sup> In January 2018, the FCC recognized the widespread damage to the islands’ infrastructure and reassigned WZVI from transition phase 3 to an early transition period beginning on July 1, 2018 and ending on August 1, 2018. By doing so, the FCC allowed WZVI to focus on constructing its post-auction Channel 21 facilities rather than rebuilding its pre-auction Channel 43 facilities and wasting resources on building duplicate broadcast facilities within a short time period. *See Incentive Auction Task Force and Media Bureau Grant Waiver of the Post-Auction Transition Schedule and Modify the Transition Phase Assignments of Repacked Stations in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands*, Public Notice, MB Docket No. 16-306 (rel. January 11, 2018).

Alpha has been working diligently to complete construction of the Channel 21 facilities specified in WZVI’s construction permit by the August 1 deadline and, until recently, fully believed that it could complete construction by the deadline. Now, however, unforeseen slowdowns in the reimbursement process and unexpected tower issues have impeded WZVI’s progress. Consequently, in an application filed contemporaneously herewith, Alpha is requesting an extension of WZVI’s construction permit deadline.

However, because Alpha is determined to get WZVI back on the air as soon as possible and restore long-awaited service to the station’s community of license, Alpha is pursuing the installation of an interim temporary facility on Channel 21 that Alpha believes can be operational by August 1. Alpha is hereby requesting Special Temporary Authority for WZVI to commence operations on Channel 21 with an interim low power transmitter and an interim antenna to be placed at a lower height on the station’s tower. WZVI will operate with these interim STA facilities while Alpha continues to diligently pursue the prompt completion of the full facilities authorized in WZVI’s construction permit.

Grant of the STA request is in the public interest because it will allow Alpha to promptly restore service to Charlotte Amalie. Grant of the request will have no impact on the overall transition schedule or have any negative impact on other stations or viewers.

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<sup>1</sup> *See* FCC File No. 0000032527.