

Request for Extension of WBPH Channel Sharing Construction Permit

Sonshine Family Television Corp. (“Sonshine”), licensee of commercial television station WBPH-TV, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, hereby requests a three-month extension of its outstanding construction permit (LMS File No. 0000055310) authorizing facilities to implement its channel sharing arrangement with channel sharees WLVT, Allentown, PA (Fac. Id. 36989), WFMZ, Allentown, PA (Fac. Id. 39884), and WPPT, Philadelphia, PA (Fac. Id. 38480) (the “Channel Sharees”). The CP expires July 23, 2018. Sonshine seeks an extension of the CP through October 23, 2018. Each of the Channel Sharees is also seeking a three-month extension for the same reason as set forth below.

This brief extension would serve the public interest in facilitating the move of the channel sharing stations to the final facilities which the parties have planned and are currently being constructed for the channel sharing arrangement, but there will be no delay in the actual commencement of channel sharing, as the parties will implement shared operations by July 23, 2018 at the FCC-approved WBPH auxiliary transmission facilities for WBPH.

The channel sharing stations have construction permits to implement their channel sharing arrangements at a broadcast tower owned and now used by the licensee of WFMZ-TV. The parties had anticipated that the appropriate facilities would be constructed and operational at that site by July 23, 2018, which is the deadline for the Channel Sharees to cease operations on their pre-transition channels and commence channel sharing with WBPH on channel 9. Due to delays in delivery of equipment, however, it is now apparent that the new facilities will not be ready by that date. The parties are confident, however, that they will be ready prior to October 23, 2018.

The parties plan to satisfy their obligation to commence channel sharing on July 23 utilizing WBPH’s channel 9 auxiliary transmission facilities on the nearby tower owned by Sonshine, which facilities have just been authorized by the Commission in LMS File No. 0000055342, and for which a license to cover application has been filed and is pending (LMS File No. 0000058316). Thus, the Channel Sharees will cease operation on their pre-transition channels and begin operating on WBPH’s shared channel 9 on July 23. Then, when the authorized final transmission facilities for the stations are completed, the parties will transition their operations to those facilities and file appropriate license applications at that site.

Additional information concerning any of these matters can be provided at the request of the Commission.