

Request for Extension of WBPH-TV Channel Sharing Construction Permit

Sonshine Family Television Corp. (“Sonshine”), licensee of digital television station WBPH-TV, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, hereby amends its request for an extension of its outstanding construction permit (LMS File No. 006620066) authorizing facilities to implement its channel sharing arrangement with WBPH as channel sharer. The permit expired on July 23, 2018. Sonshine seeks an extension of the CP through December 31, 2018.

Sonshine shares WBPH-TV’s channel 9 with three other stations pursuant to a Channel Sharing Agreement. The three channel sharees are Maranatha Broadcasting Company, Inc. (“MBC”), licensee of WFMZ-TV, Allentown, Pennsylvania, Lehigh Valley Public Telecommunications Corp. (“LVPTC”), licensee of WLVT-TV, Allentown, Pennsylvania, and LVPTC’s second noncommercial educational television station, WPPT(TV), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Each of these stations commenced channel sharing on, or prior to, the July 23 deadline. They are utilizing auxiliary transmission facilities on the nearby tower owned by Sonshine, authorized by the Commission in LMS File No. 0000055342, for which license application LMS File No. 0000058316 is pending.

This further extension of the construction permit is required because last minute questions arose about tower loading, which are now being examined. It is possible that additional height may need to be added to the mast at the top of the tower to accommodate an FM station currently operating near the top of the tower where the new TV antenna is to be loaded. Additional loading studies, plus an FAA decision on the additional height, are expected by mid-September. Upon receipt of these reports, the implementation of the permit should be able to be finalized – though the final arrangements are likely to run beyond the currently previously requested October 23 date. Thus, Sonshine is amending this extension request to ask that it run through December 31. All other channel sharees hold permits to implement channel sharing at the same site, filed permit extension requests before the July 23, 2018 expiration date, and have filed similar extension request amendments.

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