Request for Extension of WFMZ-TV Channel Sharing Construction Permit

Maranatha Broadcasting Company, Inc. ("MBC"), licensee of digital television station WFMZ-TV, Allentown, Pennsylvania, hereby amends it request for an extension of its outstanding construction permit (LMS File No. 0000038348) authorizing facilities to implement its channel sharing arrangement for WFMZ-TV. The CP expired on July 23, 2018. MBC seeks an extension of the CP through December 31, 2018.

MBC is a party to a Channel Sharing Agreement with Sonshine Family Television, Inc. ("Sonshine"), licensee of WBPH-TV, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, which is the sharer station, and Lehigh Valley Public Telecommunications Corp. ("LVPTC"), licensee of WLVT-TV, Allentown, Pennsylvania, another sharee station. LVPTC's second noncommercial educational television station, WPPT(TV), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is also a sharee station in this four-way channel sharing arrangement. 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 for the Sharer in LMS File No. 0000055342.

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 CP should be able to be finalized – though the final arrangements are likely to run beyond the currently previously requested October 23 date. Thus, MBC is amending this extension request to ask that it run through December 31.

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