

Request for STA for Interim Post-Transition Channel Operations

The instant request for STA seeks authority for WISE-TV to commence operations on or around September 1, 2018, on its post-transition channel 34 from the station's interim antenna. Such operation will facilitate the completion of the construction of WISE-TV's repack project to transition from its existing channel 18 to its post-transition channel 34.

WISE-TV was initially assigned to Transition Phase 6, and was granted—on May 25, 2018—an early transition waiver to transition on or before September 1, 2018, in order to facilitate early deployment by T-Mobile of 600 MHz wireless broadband service. *See* LMS File No. [0000053896](#). WISE-TV will be ready to terminate its pre-transition channel operations on or around August 31 or September 1, 2018, and commence, on the same date, its post-transition channel operations, albeit using interim operating parameters for a number of weeks. (In connection with WISE-TV's transition to an interim facility, the licensee has already filed a request to extend WISE-TV's repack CP. *See* LMS File No. [0000058994](#).)

The precise timeline for the completion of the full WISE-TV post-transition facility is unknown at this time because it is largely weather and equipment-delivery dependent, but the applicant expects it to occur just a few weeks after September 1, 2018. Weather conditions caused delays in work progress at the site (in particular the construction of the new tower necessary to accommodate WISE-TV's repack facility), but we expect WISE-TV's repack project to be complete within a number of weeks. In other words, the STA operations requested herein would likely not endure for more than a few or several weeks.

Grant of this STA for interim operations from WISE-TV's side-mount antenna specified herein is in the public interest because it is in furtherance of WISE-TV's repack transition plan, and it will allow for the early introduction of 600 MHz wireless services in the Fort Wayne area as discussed in the station's early transition waiver request in LMS File No. [0000053896](#). Indeed, the Commission has specifically contemplated precisely this type of temporary, "interim" operation in furtherance of the overall post-Auction transition in order to facilitate continuity of service for viewers and to avoid stations being off-the-air for periods of time during construction activities of repacked stations. *See, e.g., Incentive Auction Task Force and Media Bureau Adopt a Post-Incentive Auction Transition Scheduling Plan*, Public Notice, 32 FCC Rcd 890 (2018), ¶ 62 ("[I]nterim and auxiliary facilities will be an important part of the transition for broadcasters and we will take action as appropriate to facilitate the use of such facilities and equipment.").

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