

WUNL-TV Transition Plan Progress Report

The University of North Carolina (UNC-TV), Licensee of WUNL-TV, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, is a governmental agency entity of the State of North Carolina. As a state entity, it is legally required to comply with certain state requirements, restrictions, and policies regarding construction projects and the purchasing of goods and services. UNC-TV's repack transition project for 11 full-power television stations is no exception, and UNC-TV will be required to abide by the applicable construction, contracting, and purchasing requirements, restrictions, and policies for all 11 stations, including WUNL-TV. Significantly, as UNC-TV has previously reported—and bears reiteration here—while UNC-TV's project is considered 11 different projects by the FCC, to the State of North Carolina and its representative agencies it is considered one project. The two state government agencies that are extensively involved in UNC-TV's repack (the State Office of Purchasing and Contracts ["P&C"] and the State Construction Office ["SCO"]) are requiring UNC-TV to bundle together all 11 station repack transitions as one unitary project request to them.

To update the previous (third quarter 2018) transition report, UNC-TV's project designer, McKim & Creed, Inc., has completed the space plan and construction drawings package for the WUNL-TV site. The construction drawings include necessary electrical and mechanical modifications. That package has been submitted to SCO for review. As previously indicated, SCO approval is required under the law of the State of North Carolina before construction can proceed. (The design/SCO review process is similar to a county or city planning / permitting process, but it occurs at the state level because these are state facilities. With this SCO process, city and county permitting is not necessary.) UNC-TV expects to receive SCO's approval in or soon after January 2019.

Pursuant to the applicable State of North Carolina project guidelines, UNC-TV is in the process of bidding the general contractor work that's outlined in the project package developed by McKim & Creed. The opening of bid responses is scheduled for January 15, 2019 with construction expected to begin in early February 2019, weather permitting.

An implementation challenge recently identified for the WUNL-TV site is an HVAC issue. The current HVAC system is insufficient for the heat load that will be created in the post-transition building environment. Replacement of the current system is required to resolve this problem.

The transition plan calls for the tower work to be done in two parts. Part 1 will be (a) the removal of an existing emergency standby antenna system (which cannot be retuned to WUNL-TV's post-transition channel) and (b) the installation of an interim antenna system in the space previously occupied by the emergency standby antenna system. The interim antenna system will allow WUNL-TV to timely transition to its post-transition channel using interim facility operations pursuant to STA. (UNC-TV will timely file for a CP extension on or prior to June 10, 2019, the deadline for doing so.) Part 2 will occur after the September 6, 2019, scheduled transition date. Part 2 will involve (a) the removal of the existing top mounted main antenna (which cannot be retuned to WUNL-TV's post-transition channel) and (b) the installation of the permanent post-transition main antenna in the same location. Both cases meet the requirements of ANSI/TIA-22-G-2-2009 as required by the North Carolina Building Code.

The interim antenna system installation is currently scheduled for May 2019, weather permitting. The main antenna system work will not occur until after post-transition operations has begun using the interim antenna system.

UNC-TV will be submitting additional budget updates for FCC Form 399. Among other things, these updates will reflect the general contractor costs, revisions for transmitter installation costs, costs associated with the electrical challenges, and revised professional services pricing. Further budget adjustments may be necessary as this project continues.

We believe, as of this early January 2019 filing, that the Phase 5 September 6, 2019, transition deadline remains achievable for WUNL-TV. To reiterate, WUNL-TV plans to begin its post-transition operations using an interim transmission system. This system will attempt to replicate as much as practically possible the population served by the proposed post-transition facility. When appropriate, UNC-TV will be submitting a request for special temporary authority for WUNL-TV to operate the interim transmission system for its initial post transition operations.

In short, UNC-TV's compound, complicated lodestar for this entire repack enterprise is timely completion of the repack with full compliance of all applicable state and federal regulation while—most importantly—keeping the station operating with as much coverage areas as possible with the least possible negative impact to viewers.