

Technical Summary

WRPX-TV Rocky Mount, North Carolina Channel 32 170 kW 563.84 (HAAT)

ION Media Raleigh License, Inc. (“ION”) licensee of television station WRPX-TV, Facility ID 20590, Rocky Mount, North Carolina (the “Station”) hereby amends its pending construction permit application seeking authority to relocate its transmitter from the currently authorized site to a site that will accommodate post-repack operations (FCC LMS File No. 0000034408).

This application is necessary because ION does not have access to its current tower for post-repack operations. Following the Commission’s assignment of post-repack facilities to WRPX-TV, ION was unable to reach accommodation with the tower landlord that would permit the station to continue operating from its current site. This forced ION to identify a new site for the station’s post-repack operations.

Before selecting the proposed tower location, ION performed a comprehensive analysis of available tower sites in the Raleigh market. In the immediate vicinity of the current tower site, ION’s market analysis found no acceptable alternatives that would provide equivalent interference-free coverage as compared to the Station’s pre-auction or authorized post-auction facilities. ION has, however, identified an acceptable tower site to the south of the current authorized site.

The new tower is located 31 kilometers to the south of the current site. Accordingly, the Station’s proposed noise limited service contour (“NLSC”) will shift to the south, resulting in some areas of service gain and loss. Figure 1 shows the loss area and the stations predicted to serve the loss areas using the Commission’s standard prediction methodology. Under this analysis, the total size of the WRPX-TV loss area would be 21,910 persons over an area of 1,538.2 sq. km. WRPX-TV also would have a gain area of 431,014 persons and 7,305.9 sq. km. Thus, under the Commission’s traditional counter prediction methodology, WRPX-TV will have a net gain area of 409,044 persons and 5,767.7 sq. km. WRPX-TV currently provides an over-the-air signal to 2,218,550 persons in its service area, so the predicted service gain using 50/90 curves represents approximately 18.4% of WRPX-TV’s service population.

Figure 1 also demonstrates that the Commission's 50/90 curves predict that the majority of the loss area would remain well served by 5 or more over-the-air full-power television stations with some areas served by between 2 and 4 stations, as shown in Figure 1. The move would not create any television coverage "white area," as there are at least two other over-the-air television signals throughout the WRPX-TV loss area. Where there are less than 5 services available, the loss of over-the-air service amounts to approximately 1,494 persons (.067% of WRPX-TV's total service population) and, where there are 3 or few services available, the loss of over-the-air service amounts to approximately 559 persons (.025% of WRPX-TV's total service population).

ION has determined that the instant application will cause minimal harmful interference to low-power television stations affected by the auction and repack. The proposed operations would cause interference to construction permits for WDRN-LD (File No. 0000035523) and WTMQ-LD (File No. 0000029998). However, given the exigent circumstances caused by ION's loss of access to its tower for post-auction operations, acceptance of interference to these two secondary services is necessary to ensure the continuation of ION's full-power over-the-air operations.

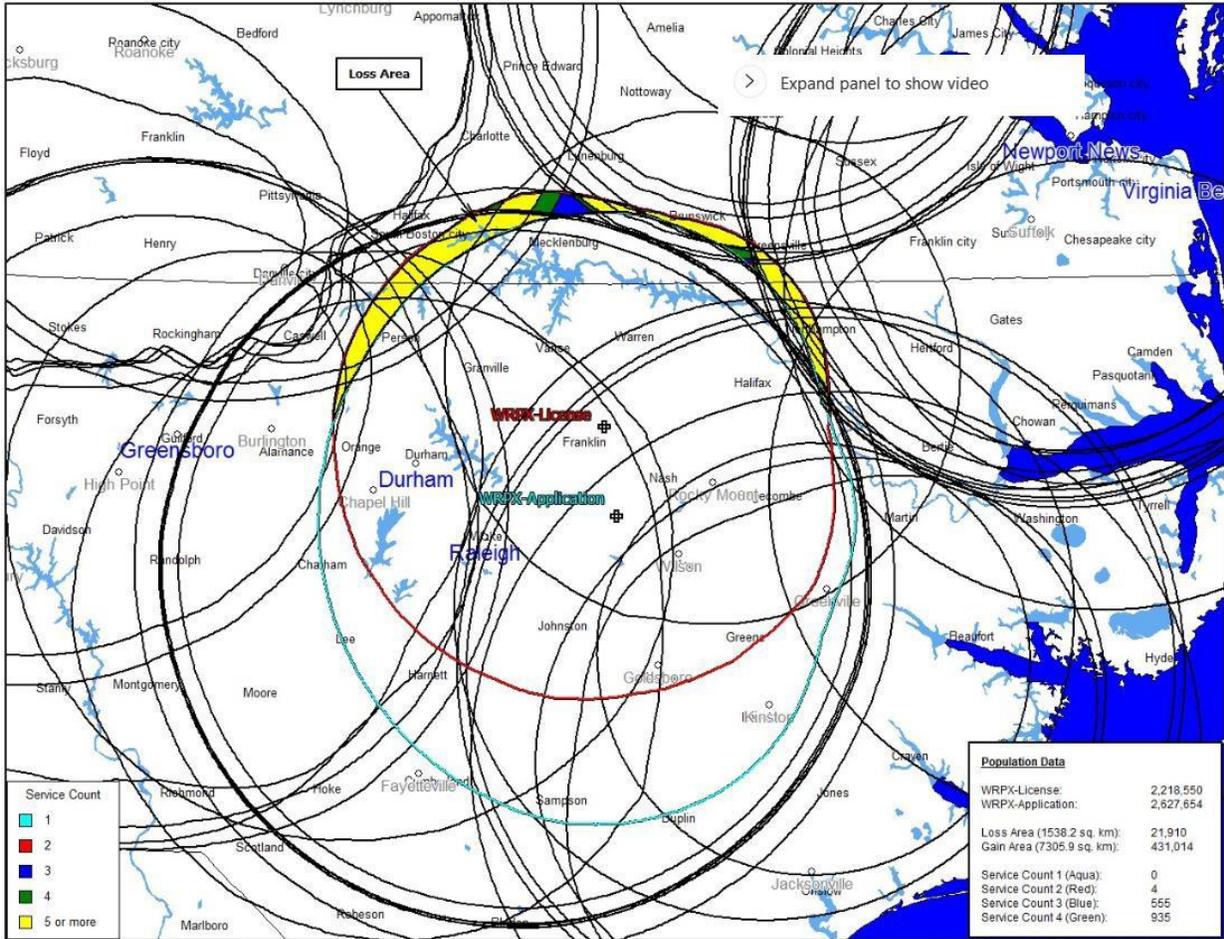
ION's proposed relocation of WRPX-TV is in the public interest and should be granted. First, ION's pre-repack tower site is unavailable for post-repack operations, and the current proposal is ION's best solution to implementing its reassignment to Channel 32. Given the loss of its current tower site, grant of authority to construct at the proposed location is necessary to ensure that ION can timely complete construction of the station's facilities by the September 6, 2019 Phase 5 transition deadline. Second, the loss area proposed by ION, when considered on its own, is well within the 5% tolerance the Commission adopted for initial post-repack construction permit applications that propose to serve fewer viewers than their pre-repack or initially allotted post-auction facilities.¹ In this case, ION proposes technical facilities that will lead to a significant net service area gain. Third, the requested tower site change is necessary for WRPX-TV to continue serving the vast majority of its viewers in the Raleigh market. Fourth, as a practical matter, very few viewers are likely to lose access to the programming available on WRPX-TV. ION network programming will remain available on area cable and satellite

¹ See Incentive Auction Task Force and Media Bureau Announce Procedures for the Post-Incentive Auction Broadcast Transition, Public Notice, 32 FCC Rcd 858 (2017); 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(1)(v)(A)-(C). Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions, Report and Order, 29 FCC Rcd 6567, 6792 para. 551 (2014), *aff'd*, Nat'l Assoc. of Broadcasters, et al v. FCC, 789 F.3d 165 (D.C. Cir. 2015). While this allowance applied only to stations that did not propose to expand their contour in any direction, the fact is that the loss area here is less than what the Commission recently considered an acceptable service loss for repack stations.

providers throughout the loss area, and approximately 85% of the viewers in the loss area subscribe to one of such services.

For the foregoing reasons, WRPX-TV requests that the staff promptly grant this Construction Permit Modification, as hereby amended. If the application is not granted, ION's ability to complete its transition to Channel 32 operations before the close of Phase 5 will be jeopardized.

Figure 1



Tabulation of other NLSC Services Considered

Call Sign	Channel	Community of License	State
WUNC-TV	25	Chapel Hill	NC
WRAL-TV	48	Raleigh	NC
WTVD-D	11	Durham	NC
WNCN-D	17	Goldsboro	NC
WLFL-D	27	Raleigh	NC
WRDC-D	28	Durham	NC
WRAY-TV	25	Wake Forest	NC
WNUV-D	25	Baltimore	MD
WUNP-TV	36	Roanoke Rapids	NC
WUVC-DT	38	Fayetteville	NC
WRAZ-D	49	Raleigh	NC
WFMY-TV	51	Greensboro	NC
WGHP-D	35	High Point	NC
WXII-TV	31	Winston-Salem	NC
WCWG-D	31	Lexington	NC
WUNL-TV	32	Winston-Salem	NC
WLXI-D	25	Greensboro	NC
WXLV-TV	29	Winston-Salem	NC
WMYV-D	33	Greensboro	NC
WTVR-TV	25	Richmond	VA
WRIC-TV	22	Petersburg	VA
WWBT-D	12	Richmond	VA
WCVE-TV	42	Richmond	VA
WNVT-D	42	Spotsylvania	VA
WRLH-TV	26	Richmond	VA
WCVW-D	44	Richmond	VA
WUPV-D	47	Ashland	VA
WDBJ-D	18	Roanoke	VA
WSLS-TV	30	Roanoke	VA
WSET-TV	13	Lynchburg	VA
WBRA-TV	3	Roanoke	VA
WWCW-D	20	Lynchburg	VA
WZBJ-D	18	Danville	VA
WFXR-D	17	Roanoke	VA
WUND-TV	20	Edenton	NC
WITN-TV	32	Washington	NC
WNCT-TV	10	Greenville	NC
WCTI-TV	12	New Bern	NC
WYDO-D	47	Greenville	NC
WUNM-TV	19	Jacksonville	NC
WUNK-TV	23	Greenville	NC

WEPX-TV	26	Greenville	NC
WUND-TV	20	Edenton	NC
WTKR-D	40	Norfolk	VA
WSKY-TV	9	Manteo	NC
WAVY-TV	31	Portsmouth	VA
WVEC-D	13	Hampton	VA
WHRO-TV	16	Hampton-Norfolk	VA
WTPC-TV	7	Virginia Beach	VA
WGNT-D	50	Portsmouth	VA
WTVZ-TV	33	Norfolk	VA
WVBT-D	29	Virginia Beach	VA
WPXV-TV	46	Norfolk	VA

***Licensed Authorization**