

ENGINEERING STATEMENT
MARYLAND PUBLIC BROADCASTING COMMISSION
REQUEST FOR SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY
WGPT, OAKLAND, MD
LICENSED: CH 36, 100 KW (H) -DIRECTIONAL, 285 m HAAT
PROPOSED: CH 36, 100 KW (H) -DIRECTIONAL, 273 m HAAT

This statement supports an application by Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission, licensee of television station WGPT, for Special Temporary Authority ("STA") to operate its licensed facility, file number BLEDT20110509ACO, at variance for a period exceeding 30 days.

Applicant was assigned to Phase 4 in the Incentive Auction Repack program. In the application for its Post-Repack Channel (channel 26), File Number 0000034106, applicant proposed to replace its current single channel antenna on channel 36 with a single channel antenna on assigned repack channel 26. The proposed repack antenna center of radiation is the same as the current antenna in use today. Since it is not possible to have both antennas at the same location on the tower at the same time, applicant is proposing to relocate its current antenna to a lower elevation on the tower to facilitate the installation of the repack channel 26 antenna. Applicant is requesting STA to operate its licensed facility at variance to accommodate installation of the channel 26 antenna and, therefore, meet its Phase 4 transition date.

The proposed current operation at a lower antenna height will only create a minor reduction of its noise-limited contour by about 1 km with a predicted population loss of around 2%. It will continue to provide a field strength over its community of license well in excess of the 48 dBu required by the rules.¹

An interference analysis was performed pursuant to the parameters used by the Commission for application interference processing to confirm that no new interference would be caused into other stations with lowering the current channel 36 antenna by 10.6 meters. The results of the analysis showed that the proposed operation for WGPT on channel 36 at a lower antenna height is not predicted to cause any new interference into other television stations. The analysis was performed using the methodology stated in OET-69 using the same software (TVStudy v2.2.5) utilized by the Commission and, therefore, should yield similar results.

A grant of this STA request is in the public interest since it will 1) not adversely impact current viewers of WGPT and 2) it will facilitate the installation of its post repack channel antenna in order to meet its Phase 4 deadline.

¹ §73.625(a)