WUNK-TV Transition Plan Progress Report

The University of North Carolina (UNC-TV), Licensee of WUNK-TV, Greenville, North Carolina, is a governmental 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 WUNK-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 (fourth quarter 2018) transition report, pursuant to the applicable State of North Carolina project guidelines, Riley Contracting Inc. has been awarded the contract to be the general contractor for the WUNK-TV site. As such, Riley Contracting is responsible for providing the services as necessary to modify the building, electrical, and mechanical elements as necessary to implement the repack channel transition for WUNK-TV. To the extent warranted, Riley Contracting will also be responsible for overseeing its own subcontractors (if any) at the site. A necessary aspect of Riley Contracting's service as GC will also include coordination of its services with UNC-TV's other vendors (such as GatesAir) who will be performing critical services in furtherance of the timely completion of WUNK-TV's repack project.

The WUNK-TV facility implementation challenges previously identified are being addressed. The previously mentioned site electrical utility service upgrade challenge has been addressed and the site utility service will now meet the expected power demands of the post transition facility.

Another implementation challenge relates to the relative size of the new post-transition transmitters as compared to the building. A number of tasks are required in order to get the transmitters and RF systems to fit in the building. The HVAC systems for the building require replacement not only because they will be insufficient to handle the heat load in the post-transition building environment but also because we need to reclaim floor space currently occupied by the HVAC systems. The HVAC systems currently are "split" systems with floor mounted air handlers. The new systems will be outdoor "package" units allowing the reclamation of over 100 square feet of floor space inside the building, which will be critical for WUNK-TV's post-transition space needs. The new HVAC systems will be properly sized to handle the increase in the building heat load caused by the post-transition facilities.

Initially, only a portion of the new main post-transition transmitter will be installed due to building space limitations. After the transition and the removal of the pre-transition main transmitter, the remainder of the post-transition main transmitter will be installed.

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 WUNK-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 WUNK-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 WUNK-TV's post-transition channel) and (b) the installation of the permanent post-transition main antenna in the same location. The tower structural analysis for the two different load cases has been completed. 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 June 2019, weather permitting. The main antenna system work will not occur until after post-transition operations have 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 recently identified challenges, and revised professional services pricing. Further budget adjustments may be necessary as this project continues.

We believe, as of this early April 2019 filing, that the Phase 5 September 6, 2019 transition deadline remains achievable for WUNK-TV, albeit using interim facilities. A copy of the project schedule / timeline for the WUNK-TV site is included with this transition report demonstrating that, as of the date of the filing of this Transition Progress Report, the transition deadline is achievable. Of course, UNC-TV reserves the right to update the project schedule / timeline as warranted to account for changes that may occur during this fluid process.

To reiterate, WUNK-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 WUNK-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.