

Request for Special Temporary Authority
WINP-TV – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Facility ID: 41314

ION Media of Scranton, Inc. (“ION”), licensee of television station WINP-TV, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (FCC Facility ID No. 41314), has been reassigned to Channel 16 in the incentive auction’s repacking process and assigned to Transition Phase 4 of the repack with a Phase Completion Date of August 2, 2019.¹

WINP-TV has a Construction Permit for its post-repack operations (FCC LMS File No. 0000034405). While WINP-TV had intended to transition to its main post-auction facility on June 29, 2019, ION was recently informed by the transmitter’s manufacturer that the transmission filter cannot handle the station’s required power output.

WINP-TV is co-located on the same tower as the tower owner’s television station WQED. ION and the tower owner have agreed to share the costs of a helicopter service for the required main antenna installations of both WINP-TV and WQED, resulting in a more efficient and cost-effective repack transition. Accordingly, ION cannot push WINP-TV’s repack transition date back because it may disrupt and/or delay WQED’s repack transition efforts.

Due to the unforeseen problem with the transmission filter, WINP-TV is unable to achieve full power on its post-auction Channel 16 by the June 29, 2019 transition date. However, WINP-TV plans to have the authorized Channel 16 antenna and transmission line on the tower which will allow WINP-TV to make the transition to Channel 16 on June 29, 2019 at a reduced power of 475 KW. See attached engineering exhibit. Accordingly, ION respectfully request special temporary authority (“STA”) for WINP-TV to operate on Channel 16 at reduced power until completion of its post-auction facility.

Grant of this request for STA will serve the public interest by allowing WINP-TV to timely transition to its post-auction Channel 16 while the new transmission filter installation effort is being completed.

¹ Incentive Auction Closing and Channel Reassignment Public Notice: The Broadcast Television Incentive Auction Closes; Reverse Auction and Forward Auction Results Announced; Final Television Band Channel Assignments Announced; Post-Auction Deadlines Announced, Public Notice, 32 FCC Red 2786 (WTB & MB 2017) (Closing and Channel Reassignment Public Notice).