

WUNG-TV Transition Plan Progress Report

The University of North Carolina (UNC-TV), Licensee of WUNG-TV, Concord, 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 is required to abide by the applicable construction, contracting, and purchasing requirements, restrictions, and policies for all 11 stations, including WUNG-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.

UNC-TV submitted on June 10, 2019, a Construction Permit extension request (LMS File No. [0000074593](#)) for WUNG-TV's Construction Permit (LMS File No. [0000034415](#)). UNC-TV also plans to submit a Digital Auxiliary Construction Permit Application for WUNG-TV and, if necessary, an STA request for the WUNG-TV post-transition interim facility.

The WUNG-TV transition plan calls for work to be performed in 2 parts. Part 1 includes the work necessary for WUNG-TV to begin operating on its post-transition channel utilizing an interim facility. Part 1 work includes the installation of the new post-transition main and auxiliary transmitters (replacing existing transmitters that can't be retuned to WUNG-TV's post-transition channel) along with modifications to the building infrastructure necessary to support the operation of the new transmitters. In order to install the new post-transition transmitters, the pre-transition auxiliary transmitter must be removed to clear sufficient building space necessary to install both of the new post-transition transmitters. Part 1 tower work includes (a) the removal of an existing emergency standby antenna system (which cannot be retuned to WUNG-TV's post-transition channel) and (b) the installation of an interim antenna system (antenna and transmission line) in the space previously occupied by the emergency standby antenna system.

As of the date of filing this report, the Part 1 tower work has already been substantially completed. In addition, the new transmitters have been delivered to the site and the GatesAir installation crew is scheduled to begin installation work during the 1st week of July 2019 and to complete installation of the new transmitters in early August 2019.

Part 2 of the transition plan will occur after the September 6, 2019, Phase 5 scheduled transition date. Part 2 includes the removal of the pre-transition main and auxiliary transmitters as well as the completion of the building infrastructure modifications. Part 2 tower work includes (a) the removal of the existing main antenna system (which cannot be retuned to WUNG-TV's post-transition channel) and (b) the installation of the permanent post-transition main antenna system in the same location. This work is tentatively scheduled to begin in January 2020. As of the date of this 10-Week Transition Progress Reporting filing, UNC-TV cannot say with certainty whether construction of WUNG-TV's full

repack facility will be complete within 180 days of the September 6, 2019, Phase 5 deadline (this 180-day period assumes that the station's repack CP extension request will be granted); while UNC-TV's objective is to have the project completed within 180 days of the Phase 5 deadline, certain elements of the project—including winter weather—will be beyond UNC-TV's control.

UNC-TV staff has been in contact with most of the upstream dependent linked set stations for WUNG-TV (WUNG-TV is part of LSS 40). The upstream stations are W21CK-D, Charlotte, NC; WWMB, Florence, SC; WCNC-TV, Charlotte, NC; and WHNS, Greenville, SC. To date, UNC-TV has been unsuccessful in its efforts to contact W21CK-D, perhaps because the station is off the air with no indications of resuming operations on its pre-transition channel. In conversations with WWMB staff, they have not been able to provide a transition date due to significant transition obstacles they are encountering. In conversations with representatives of both WCNC-TV and WHNS, they've indicated that they plan to transition at 3:00am on September 6, 2019. WUNG-TV also plans to transition at 3:00am on September 6, 2019, assuming issues with WWMB transition can be resolved. The September 6th date and time (3am) has been mutually agreed to by several other LSS 40 stations in North Carolina and South Carolina.

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

We believe, as of this late June 2019 filing, that the Phase 5 September 6, 2019, transition deadline remains achievable for WUNG-TV, albeit using interim facilities. A copy of the project schedule / timeline for the WUNG-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, WUNG-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 WUNG-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 regulations while—most importantly—keeping the station operating with as much coverage areas as possible with the least possible negative impact to viewers.