

WUNJ-TV Transition Plan Progress Report

The University of North Carolina (UNC-TV), Licensee of WUNJ-TV, Wilmington, North Carolina, is a governmental agency 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 WUNJ-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. [0000074594](#)) for WUNJ-TV's Construction Permit (LMS File No. [0000034442](#)). In early July 2019, UNC-TV will submit a minor modification of construction permit application for WUNJ-TV's construction permit to correct issues related to site coordinates and ground elevation. UNC-TV also plans to submit a Digital Auxiliary Construction Permit Application for WUNJ-TV and, if necessary, an STA request for the WUNJ-TV post-transition interim facility.

The WUNJ-TV transition plan calls for work to be performed in 2 parts. Part 1 includes the work necessary for WUNJ-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 WUNJ-TV's post-transition channel) along with modifications to the building infrastructure necessary to support the operation of the new transmitters. The installation of WUNJ-TV's new post-transition transmitters is a complicated process due to building space limitations. First, the pre-transition auxiliary transmitter will be removed to provide enough space for installation of the new post-transition auxiliary transmitter. That new auxiliary transmitter will initially be installed to operate on the pre-transition channel. Second, WUNJ-TV will begin operating at reduced power using the new auxiliary transmitter on its pre-transition channel. This step will allow for the removal of the pre-transition main transmitter and the installation of the new post-transition main transmitter. Part 1 tower work includes (a) the removal of an existing emergency standby antenna (which cannot be retuned to WUNJ-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.

The Part 1 tower work is, as of the date of filing this report, currently in progress and is expected to be completed in early July. The GatesAir installation crew is scheduled to begin transmitter installation work in mid-July 2019. The transmitter installation is expected to be completed by mid-August 2019.

Part 2 of the transition plan will occur after the September 6, 2019, Phase 5 scheduled transition date. Part 2 includes the re-channeling of the auxiliary transmitter to the post-transition channel. Part 2

tower work includes (a) the removal of the existing main antenna (which cannot be retuned to WUNJ-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 mid-February 2020. As of the date of this 10-Week Transition Progress Report filing, UNC-TV cannot say with certainty whether construction of WUNJ-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 the upstream dependent linked set station for WUNJ-TV (the station is part of LSS 40). That station is WWMB, Florence, SC. In conversations with WWMB staff, they have not been able to provide a transition date due to significant transition obstacles they are encountering. WUNJ-TV plans to transition at 3:00am on September 6, 2019, and UNC-TV is hopeful that that no issues with WWMB's transition arise. The September 6th date and time has been mutually agreed to by several other LSS 40 stations in North and South Carolina.

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 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 WUNJ-TV, albeit using interim facilities. A copy of the project schedule / timeline for the WUNJ-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, WUNJ-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, and if required, UNC-TV will be submitting a request for special temporary authority for WUNJ-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.