

Request for STA for Interim Pre-Transition Channel Operations

The instant request for STA seeks authority for WISN-TV to operate periodically on its pre-transition channel 34 from the station's interim antenna during certain construction stages of WISN-TV's repack project to transition from its existing channel 34 to its post-transition channel 28. WISN-TV holds an aux antenna license for channel 34 (*see* CDBS File No. BXMLCDT-20120521ABB), but the proposed pre-transition interim operating parameters and antenna will be different from those authorized in BXMLCDT-20120521ABB, which is why this STA request is being filed.

WISN-TV has been assigned to Transition Phase 6, which means that testing of its post-transition facility is scheduled to begin September 7, 2019, and the Phase Completion Date is scheduled for October 18, 2019. As such, not surprisingly, some of WISN-TV's transition-related construction activities—including but not limited to tower work, transmission line replacement, and the switchout of WISN-TV's primary antenna—have been scheduled to commence in September 2019. Thus, as these activities are set in motion and WISN-TV's post-transition construction continues to unfold, WISN-TV will operate from the side-mount interim antenna described in the technical portion of this STA request.¹

Grant of this STA for interim operations from WISN-TV's side-mount antenna specified herein is in the public interest because it is in furtherance of WISN-TV's repack transition plan. Indeed, the Commission has specifically contemplated precisely this type of temporary, "interim" operation in furtherance of the overall post-Auction transition in order to facilitate continuity of service for viewers and to avoid stations being off-the-air for periods of time during construction activities of repacked stations. *See, e.g., Incentive Auction Task Force and Media Bureau Adopt a Post-Incentive Auction Transition Scheduling Plan*, Public Notice, 32 FCC Rcd 890 (2018), ¶ 62 ("[I]nterim and auxiliary facilities will be an important part of the transition for broadcasters and we will take action as appropriate to facilitate the use of such facilities and equipment.").

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¹ The same broadband antenna will also serve as WISN-TV's post-transition aux antenna, and the licensee is filing a construction permit application for it contemporaneously with this STA request.