

WSTM-TV – Request for STA to Operate on Interim Facilities

WSTQ Licensee, LLC, licensee of station WSTM-TV, Syracuse, New York (“WSTM”), hereby requests special temporary authority (STA), due to circumstances beyond its control, to operate on interim facilities while its permanent facilities are completed, and a waiver of the rules to the extent necessary. *See* 47 C.F.R. Section 73.3700(b)(5)(iv).¹ WSTM hereby respectfully requests permission to operate from interim facilities for a period of 180 days from August 2, 2019, *i.e.*, until January 29, 2020.

WSTM is assigned to transition from Channel 24 to Channel 19 in Phase 4 of the repack. WSTM shares certain transmission facilities, including its antenna and transmitter, with repack station WCNY-TV, Syracuse, New York (“WCNY”). WSTM’s transition plan calls for, among other things, replacement of the shared top-mounted main antenna and shared transmitter and combiner. WSTM’s plan also provides for a side-mounted interim antenna that it planned to utilize during the installation of its new permanent top-mounted antenna.

WSTM recently was informed that the “target date” for delivery of the shared post-repack permanent antenna is August 21, 2019, almost three weeks after the end of Phase 4. WSTM intends to operate on its post-repack channel 19 from its interim side-mounted antenna until the station’s new top-mounted antenna is delivered and the necessary tower crews are available to remove the station’s existing top-mounted antenna and replace it with the station’s new antenna. WSTM intends to file a request for extension of its construction permit to operate from these interim facilities. WSTM currently expects that construction of its permanent post-repack facilities is likely to occur by the end of September 2019, so long as it is able to secure a tower crew to complete the installation.

Because of the delayed delivery of its new antenna, WSTM will not be able to complete construction of its permanent post-repack facilities by the end of Phase 4 on August 2, 2019. Thus, WSTM respectfully requests an STA to operate on its post-repack channel from interim facilities while construction is completed on its permanent facilities. This request will not impact the repack efforts of other stations because, prior to the completion of Phase 4, WSTM will still transition to its post-repack channel. Furthermore, grant of the instant STA request would be in the public interest because it would allow WSTM to broadcast on its post-repack channel without disruption to viewers or the overall repack.

WSTM will cease operations on its pre-auction facilities and begin broadcasting on its post-auction channel utilizing the above-referenced temporary facilities prior to the end of Phase 4.

¹ This request has been filed fewer than 90 days before WSTM’s current construction deadline. The station only recently learned that its post-repack primary antenna would not be delivered on time. WSTM thus respectfully requests a waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 73.3700(b)(5)(iv).