

ENGINEERING STATEMENT
MARYLAND PUBLIC BROADCASTING COMMISSION
CONSTRUCTION PERMIT EXTENSION REQUEST
CONSTRUCTION PERMIT FILE NUMBER 0000029784
WMPT, ANNAPOLIS, MD
CP: CH 21, 1000 kW (H), 500 kW (V), NON-DIRECTIONAL, 284 meters HAAT
PROPOSED INTERIM: CH 21, 800 kW, NON-DIRECTIONAL, 239 meters HAAT

This statement supports a request by Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission ("MPBC"), licensee of WMPT, to extend the expiration date of construction permit file number 0000025178 in order to construct its post-auction television repack facility on channel 21.

WMPT was originally assigned to Phase 8 in the FCC's post-incentive auction transition schedule. In October of 2018 MPBC filed a request with the Commission to change its transition Phase from 8 to Phase 4.¹ On February 22, 2019 the Commission granted MPBC's request and reassigned WMPT to Phase 4. A revised license was issued for WMPT's pre-repack channel 42 showing an expiration date of August 2, 2019. The construction permit for WMPT's post-incentive auction channel 21, was not reissued and still shows an expiration date of March 13, 2020. It appears that this should have been changed but may have been inadvertently overlooked. Even though the CP document had not been reissued, FCC staff requested that an extension for the CP be filed due to the reasons set forth below that are beyond the control of the licensee.

WMPT has received a couple of notifications from the tower rigging crew installing the channel 21 antenna that work on the tower will be delayed. These delays, beyond the control of the licensee, are now jeopardizing the ability for WMPT to meet its repack transition date as stated on its construction permit. In order to stay on target with the transition date, the tower rigger is proposing to utilize a helicopter to replace the antenna, therefore, reducing the installation time and enabling WMPT to meet its transition deadline.

On the next page, in bold italics, is an excerpt of the latest email the licensee received from the tower rigger explaining this situation.

¹ LMS File Number 0000063170

From: Bill Allen <Bill.Allen@fdh-is.com>

Date: Tue, Jun 25, 2019, 5:05 PM

Subject: RE: WMPT Annapolis Mobilization

To: Carl Wolfe -MPT- <cwolfe@mpt.org>

Cc: Jerry Folk <Jerry.Folk@fdh-is.com>, Jon Marcusse <Jon.Marcusse@fdh-is.com>, Juan Romero <Juan.Romero@fdh-is.com>, Melton Bell <melton.bell@fdh-is.com>

Here is what we are looking at right now:

Based on weather impact we are looking at the crew on site for 7/15.

Since this puts us close to your cut over deadline we will need to use a helicopter for the antenna set. We have a tentative date for the helicopter work of 7/30

We use the time between the 7/15 mob date and 7/30 to make sure all needed lines are in place and everything is prepped for the helicopter work for 1 day. This leaves just the cut piece and sweeps to have you ready for hot cut over...

Should unforeseen circumstance arise, WMPT would face the possibility of not meeting the August 2 date. Fortunately, WMPT has constructed an interim antenna that is capable of supporting operation on both channels 42 and 21. Should WMPT be unable to meet its final facility as stated in its construction permit, it will be able to make its transition to its interim antenna while final construction is complete for its top-mount channel 21 antenna. MPBC is, therefore, requesting extension of its construction permit in the event it is unable to complete construction prior to August 2. A separate application for Special Temporary Authority will be filed for operation on the interim antenna.

The map attached to this statement shows that WMPT, operating on an interim antenna, will provide coverage greater than pre-auction transition channel 42 but inside the contour of the construction permit.

This request is in the public interest since it extends the construction date for its granted CP facility with an interim facility that will not reduce the current licensed coverage contour.

Predicted Coverage Contour Comparison

WMPT, Annapolis, MD

Black - Lic: Ch 42, 516 kW, Directional, 290 meters HAAT

Red - CP: Ch 21, 1000 kW (H), 500 kW (V), Non-Directional, 284 meters HAAT

Blue - Proposed Interim: Ch 21, 800 kW, Non-Directional, 239 meters HAAT

