

WCNY-TV – Request for STA

Public Broadcasting Council of Central New York, licensee of noncommercial educational TV station WCNY-TV, Syracuse, New York (“WCNY”), hereby requests special temporary authority (STA) to operate on interim facilities on its post-repack channel until such time as the station’s permanent post-repack facilities can be installed and put into operation.

WCNY is assigned to transition from Channel 25 to Channel 20 in Phase 4 of the repack. WCNY shares certain transmission facilities, including its antenna and transmitter, with repack station WSTM-TV, Syracuse, New York (“WSTM”). WCNY’s transition plan calls for, among other things, replacement of the shared top-mounted main antenna and shared transmitter and combiner. WCNY’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.

WCNY recently was informed that the “target date” for delivery of the tower modification steel is August 21, 2019, almost three weeks after the end of Phase 4, and the shared permanent antenna cannot be installed until the tower is modified. As a result of this delay, WCNY has shifted focus to ensuring that most of the station’s viewers will be able to continue receiving the station’s over the air signal despite the delivery delay. WCNY intends to operate 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. WCNY has filed a request for extension of time to complete construction of its permanent facilities. WCNY 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, WCNY will not be able to complete construction of its permanent post-repack facilities by the end of Phase 4 on August 2, 2019. Thus, WCNY respectfully requests STA to operate on its post-repack channel from interim facilities while construction is completed on its permanent facilities. The requested STA will not impact the repack efforts of other stations because prior to the completion of Phase 4, WCNY will cease operations on its pre-auction facilities and begin broadcasting on its post-auction channel over temporary facilities.