

WPBS-DT REQUEST FOR SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY

St. Lawrence Valley Educational TV Council, Inc., licensee of public television Station WPBS-DT, Watertown, New York, is scheduled to move the station to RF Channel 26 in Phase 4 of the repack. The station holds a construction permit at ERP of 972 kW with a directional antenna. It has a pending application for modification of that construction permit in order to use the currently licensed Channel 42 omnidirectional antenna at ERP of 98 kW. The licensee has proposed the reduction in power on the repack channel because it has not been able to raise funds for new equipment that would generate the CP power. The revised proposal would provide better coverage than the station provides on its pre-repack channel at an affordable cost. The licensee believes that only the need for Canadian concurrence is delaying the grant of the modification application.

The Phase 4 transition deadline is August 2. The licensee wishes to cut over to repack Channel 26 on July 29, 2019 to avoid a last-minute transition that leaves no margin for mishap. Unless the Commission is in a position to grant the modification application at this time, the licensee requests grant of special temporary authority to commence operations on the repack channel immediately with the currently licensed antenna at reduced ERP of 40 kW. The power proposed will result in a contour that is within the CP contour and thus avoids any incursion into Canada beyond that already authorized.

Grant of this request would be in the public interest because it will permit a timely transition without generating objectionable interference or requiring Canadian coordination, preserving the area's public television service until the proposed modification of the construction permit is granted.