

WZRB(TV) – Columbia, South Carolina

Facility ID: 136750

Request for Special Temporary Authority (STA)

ION Media License Company, LLC (“ION”), licensee of television station WZRB(TV), Columbia, South Carolina (FCC Facility ID No. 136750), requests special temporary authority (“STA”) for WZRB(TV) to operate on its pre-auction Channel 47 using an interim antenna. WZRB(TV) has been reassigned Channel 25 in the incentive auction’s repacking process and assigned to Transition Phase 5 of the repack with a Phase Completion Date of 9/6/2019.¹

The proposed STA system will be employed for use as an interim antenna to facilitate construction of WZRB(TV)’s repack project transition from its licensed channel to its repack channel. Specifically, WZRB(TV) will operate on its current Channel 47 using a side-mount interim antenna until the main antenna for WZRB(TV)’s post-auction operations is installed and made operational. As demonstrated in the attached engineering exhibits, the request for temporary operation complies with the Commission’s rules and will authorize WZRB(TV)’s continued operations on its pre-auction channel using an interim antenna during the repack transition period.

Grant of this STA for interim operations is in the public interest because it is in furtherance of WZRB(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.² Thus, ION respectfully requests prompt processing and grant of this STA request.

¹ *Incentive Auction Closing and Channel Reassignment Public Notice: The Broadcast Television Incentive Auction Closes; Reverse Auction and Forward Auction Results Announced; Final Television Band Channel Assignments Announced; Post-Auction Deadlines Announced*, Public Notice, 32 FCC Red 2786 (WTB & MB 2017) (*Closing and Channel Reassignment Public Notice*).

² *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.”).