

Request for Extension of WVIZ Construction Permit (LMS File No. 0000075873)

ideastream, licensee of digital television broadcast station WVIZ located at Cleveland, OH (Facility ID No. 18753), respectfully requests an extension of the WVIZ post-auction construction permit for Channel 35 (LMS File No. 00000758736). WVIZ had been on track to complete construction of its new, main Ch. 35 facility by August 2, 2019 and had planned to begin operating with its new channel on that date; however, WVIZ has had numerous issues with the tower crews hired to install its new Ch. 35 antenna. WVIZ had to replace the original tower crew it hired. The replacement crew changed the methodology for installing the antenna from a crane lift to a helicopter lift since the antenna is part of a complicated, staked antenna configuration with WKYC (also changing channels in Phase 4).

Given that the lift had not originally been planned as a helicopter lift, the antenna manufacturer and the new tower company had to do an extensive analysis on the structural forces the antennas (and spacer) would be subjected to during the helicopter lift to ensure structural integrity could be maintained. The study was just recently completed and, while it has confirmed that the antennas and spacer can withstand the helicopter lift, the study was not completed in time for the installation to be completed by the August 2 deadline.

WVIZ, therefore, respectfully requests an additional sixty days, or until October 1, 2019, to complete the construction of the facility specified in the WVIZ construction permit. To the extent necessary, WVIZ also respectfully requests a waiver of the Commission's requirement that the request for extension of post-auction construction deadlines be submitted ninety days prior to the existing construction permit deadline. Grant of the extension and waiver request would be in the public interest as it would facilitate the WVIZ move to its new post-auction facility without impacting the repack schedule since WVIZ plans to already be operating on its post-auction channel by the August 2, 2019 deadline.