

Request for Extension of Repack CP Expiration Date

North Carolina Broadcasting Partners (“NCBP”), the licensee of WCCB, Charlotte, North Carolina (FIN 49157), hereby respectfully requests an extension of the expiration date of WCCB’s post-auction repack channel 18 construction permit (File No. 0000067979) (“Repack Channel CP”) for 180 days until March 4, 2020.

The FCC assigned WCCB to be repacked from channel 27 to channel 18 in transition phase 5 with a phase completion date of September 6, 2019. While WCCB plans to terminate operations on its pre-auction channel and transition to its repack channel by September 6, 2019, WCCB’s operations on its repack channel will be at variance from parameters specified in WCCB’s Repack Channel CP. A request for special temporary authority for WCCB to operate with such interim facilities has been granted. (*See* FCC File No. 0000080348 and attached Exhibit A from the STA application.) While WCCB is linked to multiple stations (upstream and downstream), WCCB operations on its repack channel with the parameters specified in the STA will not impact other stations because WCCB will be terminating operations on its pre-auction channel by September 6.

In 2018, when NCBP initiated planning of WCCB’s move to repack channel 18, NCBP had hoped it could repurpose WCCB’s formerly-licensed channel 18 antenna as the antenna it would use to permanently operate on repack channel 18. In April 2018, technical inspections revealed that the old antenna’s protective slot covers were damaged and would need to be repaired or replaced. (Protective slot covers, called radomes, are necessary to protect antennas from damage in harsh weather.) NCBP worked diligently with its primary antenna manufacturer (Dielectric) to try to address the problem. NCBP promptly ordered slot cover replacement from Dielectric, which were delivered in August 2018 but which proved unacceptable and did not correct the problem. Throughout the rest of 2018 and early 2019, NCBP continued to work on the problem with Dielectric and other entities but, over a number of months, was unable to find a means for satisfactorily addressing the protective slot cover issue.

In mid-February 2019, NCBP executed a purchase order for a new antenna. NCBP had expected and hoped that the new antenna would be available for installation by the September 6, 2019 deadline. Earlier this summer, it became apparent that the new antenna would not be ready by that date. As an interim solution to allow WCCB to transition to repack channel 18 by the September 6 date, NCBP is utilizing the legacy antenna, as authorized in the STA granted last week. NCBP expects to receive its new antenna and to have it installed by Thanksgiving. Out of an abundance of caution, however, it is requesting an extension for 180 days. NCBP regrets that it was unable to submit this extension request a full 90 days before the Phase 5 transition date but submits that the public interest supports grant of this application at this time.

Accordingly, NCBP seeks a grant of the instant request to extend the expiration date of WCCB’s Repack Channel CP for 180 days until March 4, 2020. Grant of this request will serve the public interest by permitting WCCB to continue serving its viewers while the station completes construction of its repack channel facilities.