

WABM – Request for STA to Operate on Interim Facilities

Birmingham (WABM-TV) Licensee, Inc., licensee of station WABM(TV), Birmingham, AL, FIN 16820 (“WABM”), hereby requests special temporary authority (STA), due to circumstances beyond its control, to operate on interim facilities while its permanent facilities are completed, and further requests a waiver of the Commission’s rules to the extent necessary. *See* 47 C.F.R. Section 73.3700(b)(5)(iv).¹ WABM hereby respectfully requests permission to operate from interim facilities for a period of 180 days from August 30, 2019, *i.e.*, until February 26, 2020.

WABM is assigned to transition from Channel 36 to Channel 20 in Phase 5 of the repack.

WABM was informed that there will be a delay in constructing its permanent post-repack facilities due to a delay in the availability of a helicopter to install the antenna for the station’s permanent facilities. Also, due to the shortage of transmitter installation crews, the station had insufficient time to install the station’s permanent full-power transmitter. Because of these delays, WABM will not be able to complete construction of its permanent post-repack facilities by the end of Phase 5 on September 6, 2019. However, WABM has scheduled antenna and transmitter crews to construct interim facilities, with the interim antenna installation scheduled to occur during the week of August 26, 2019, and the installation of an interim transmitter scheduled to take place on August 30, 2019. Thus, WABM respectfully requests an STA to operate on its post-repack channel from interim facilities while construction is completed on its permanent facilities. This request will not impact the repack efforts of other stations because, prior to the completion of Phase 5, WABM will still transition to its post-repack channel. Furthermore, grant of the instant STA request would be in the public interest because it would allow WABM to broadcast on its post-repack channel without disruption to viewers or the overall repack.

WABM will cease operations on its pre-auction facilities and begin broadcasting on its post-auction channel utilizing the above-referenced temporary facilities prior to the end of Phase 5.