



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

September 4, 2019

Raleigh (WRDC-TV) Licensee, Inc.  
Harvey Arnold  
10706 Beaver Dam Road  
Cockeysville, MD 21030

Re: Request for  
Extension of  
Construction Permit  
WRDC, Durham, NC  
Facility ID No. 54963  
LMS File No. 0000080542

Dear Licensee,

On July 11, 2019, Raleigh (WRDC-TV) Licensee, Inc. (Sinclair) the licensee of Station WRDC, Durham, North Carolina (WRDC or Station), filed the above captioned application seeking an extension of the Station's construction permit expiration date and waiver of the 90-day construction permit extension filing deadline. For the reasons below, we grant Sinclair's requests and extend WRDC's construction permit expiration date 180 days to March 9, 2020.

*Background.* Pursuant to Section 73.3700(b)(5) of the Commission's rules, a station may request a single extension of its construction permit deadline of up to 180 days to complete construction of its post-auction facility.<sup>1</sup> Grant of an extension of the construction permit deadline does not alter the deadline by which a station must cease operating on its pre-auction channel. A station anticipating the need for an extension must submit an extension application using FCC Form 2100, Schedule 337, not less than 90 days before the assigned construction permit deadline.<sup>2</sup> For Phase 5 stations, such application was due by June 10, 2019. The application must demonstrate that the station is unable to complete construction on time due to circumstances that were either unforeseeable or beyond the station's control.<sup>3</sup> In addition, a waiver of the application filing deadline is appropriate where the particular facts would make strict compliance inconsistent with the public interest and deviation from the general rule would

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<sup>1</sup> See 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5). All subsequent requests for additional time to construct are subject to the Commission's tolling provisions, 47 CFR § 73.3598(b).

<sup>2</sup> 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5)(iv).

<sup>3</sup> The *Incentive Auction R&O* provides examples of six circumstances that might justify an 180-day extension of a station's post-auction construction permit: (1) weather related delays; (2) delays in construction due to the unavailability of equipment or a tower crew; (3) tower lease disputes; (4) unusual technical challenges; or (5) delays caused by the need to obtain government approvals, such as land use or zoning approvals, or to observe competitive bidding requirements prior to purchasing equipment or services; and (6) financial hardship with sufficient supporting evidence. See *Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions*, GN Docket No. 12-268 et. al., Report and Order, 29 FCC Rcd 6567,6804-05, paras. 581-2 (2014) (*Incentive Auction R&O*); 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5)(ii) and (iii).

relieve hardship, promote equity, or produce a more effective implementation of overall policy on an individual basis.<sup>4</sup>

WRDC was repacked from channel 28 to channel 14 and assigned to transition Phase 5, which originally had a phase completion date of September 6, 2019. All repacked stations for Phase 5 were issued a construction permit with an expiration date of September 6, 2019. On September 3, 2019, the Incentive Auction Task Force and the Media Bureau extended the phase completion date and the construction permit expiration date for Phase 5 stations to September 11, 2019.<sup>5</sup> The Station pledges to cease operation on its pre-auction channel by the phase completion date and operate an interim facility on its post-auction channel while it completes construction of its permanent post-auction facilities.<sup>6</sup>

Sinclair states that was informed that there will be a delay in completing construction of its post-auction channel facilities due to the complexity of the installation which includes multiple antennas being installed on a candelabra tower. Additionally, Sinclair states that, because the Station is moving to channel 14, it must also install a filter to protect land mobile service. Sinclair requests a 180-day extension. Sinclair also requests a waiver of the 90-day construction permit extension filing deadline because it did not know for certain it would require an extension at the time the deadline passed.

*Discussion.* Upon review of the facts and circumstances presented, we find Sinclair's request to extend the construction permit deadline to construct WRDC's post-auction facility meets the requirements for a construction permit extension. Sinclair has demonstrated that an extension is needed because of a delay with installation due to the complexity of the multiple antenna candelabra tower. We also find that grant of this extension request is not likely to negatively impact the overall transition schedule. WRDC will cease operations on its pre-auction channel by the Phase 5 phase completion date and will operate an interim facility on its post-auction channel. To the extent some viewers are unable to receive WRDC's signal while it operates its interim facility, we believe that Sinclair has every incentive to ensure viewers are fully informed about the Station's transition plan. Finally, we find that waiver of the 90-day construction permit extension filing deadline is in the public interest and consistent with the Commission's general waiver standard because Sinclair was unaware at the time an extension request was due that an extension would be needed.<sup>7</sup>

We remind Sinclair that pursuant to the Spectrum Act, the Station is eligible for reimbursement from the TV Broadcast Relocation Fund (Fund) of costs "reasonably incurred . . . in order for the licensee to relocate its television service from one channel to the other."<sup>8</sup> Additional expenses incurred, for instance, as a result of the grant of changes in the Station's transition plan that are not related to the post-incentive auction channel change, may not be reimbursable from the Fund.

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<sup>4</sup> See *Northeast Cellular Telephone Co. v. FCC*, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990) and *WAIT Radio v. FCC*, 418 F.2d 1153, 1159 (D.C. Cir. 1969), *cert. denied*, 409 U.S. 1072 (1972); 47 CFR § 1.3 (waiver for good cause shown).

<sup>5</sup> See *The Completion Date For Phase 4 of the Post-Incentive Auction Transition Is Extended To September 11, 2019 Because of Hurricane Dorian*, Public Notice, DA 19-866, rel. September 3, 2019 (IATF/MB).

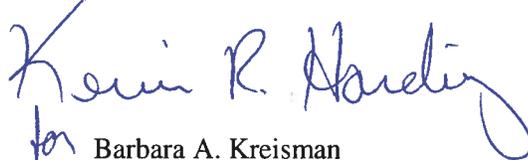
<sup>6</sup> See LMS File No. 0000080599.

<sup>7</sup> See *supra* note 4.

<sup>8</sup> See *Media Bureau Finalizes Reimbursement Form for Submission to OMB and Adopts Catalog of Expenses*, GN Docket No. 12-268, Public Notice, 30 FCC Rcd 11701, 11701-02 (MB 2015). See also Incentive Auction R&O, 29 FCC Rcd at 6821, para. 622 ("The appropriate scope of 'costs reasonably incurred' necessarily will have to be decided on a case-by-case basis.").

The above facts considered, Raleigh (WRDC-TV) Licensee, Inc.'s application for extension of construction permit expiration date **IS GRANTED**. The construction permit (LMS File No. 0000068684) for WRDC, Durham, North Carolina, **IS EXTENDED 180 days to March 9, 2020**. Grant of this extension does not permit WRDC to recommence operation on its pre-auction channel after ceasing operation or after September 11, 2019, whichever occurs first. We also remind Sinclair that any subsequent requests for extension of its construction permit deadline will be subject to the Commission's tolling provisions.<sup>9</sup>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin R. Harding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "H" and "D".

for Barbara A. Kreisman  
Chief, Video Division  
Media Bureau

cc (via electronic mail): Paul Cicelski, Esq.

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<sup>9</sup> See 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5)(i) (referencing 47 § CFR 73.3598(b)).