

WZBJ-CD, Lynchburg, Virginia (FID 168095)
Request to Extend Construction Permit

Gray Television Licensee, LLC, the licensee of WZBJ-CD, Lynchburg, Virginia (FID 168095) (“WZBJ”), requests an extension of time to complete the facilities specified in the station’s repack construction permit (File No. 0000034402). However, due to circumstances outside of its control, it was not able to complete construction of its final authorized facilities by the Phase 5 deadline of September 11, 2019.¹ WZBJ ceased operating on its pre-auction channel on September 11. It will remain silent until it can begin operations on its post-auction channel. Gray requests an extension of up to ninety days (90) to complete construction of the WZBJ post-auction facility.

Section 73.3700(b)(5) provides that the Media Bureau may grant an extension of time up to six months for stations that are unable to complete construction of their post-auction facilities “due to circumstances that are either unforeseeable or beyond licensee’s control.”² Circumstances meeting this standard could include “delays in construction due to the unavailability of equipment or a tower crew.”³

WZBJ has been working diligently to complete construction of its repack facility. However, to finish the final facility, the current antenna must be replaced with a new antenna. The crew scheduled to perform this work was delayed on earlier jobs in large part because of weather delays in connection with Hurricane Dorian.

Based on current tower crew availability, WZBJ expects to complete construction of its final post-auction facility by the end of September. However, because of the possibility of additional delays, Gray respectfully requests an extension of the deadline of up to 90 days to allow it to complete construction of the WZBJ post-auction facility.

¹ Gray requests that the Media Bureau accept this request for extension of its construction permit as late filed. 73.3700(b)(5)(iv) requires the filing of an extension request at least ninety (90) days prior to a station’s construction permit deadline. As explained above, WZBJ did not have notice of the tower crew’s delay until immediately prior to the deadline.

² 73.3700(b)(5)(i).

³ 73.3700(b)(5)(ii)(B).