

WTOM-TV – Request for STA to Operate on Interim Facilities

WPBN Licensee, LLC, licensee of station WTOM-TV, Cheboygan, MI, FIN 21254 (“WTOM”), 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. WTOM hereby respectfully requests permission to operate from interim facilities for a period of 180 days from October 18, 2019 until April 15, 2020.

WTOM is assigned to transition from Channel 35 to Channel 16 in Phase 6 of the repack. WTOM’s construction of its permanent facilities has been delayed due to equipment delivery and tower crew delays. As of this filing, WTOM has installed the station’s full power transmitter and an interim antenna. The station is in the process of finalizing the installation of a transmission line to feed the station’s full power top mount antenna, which has yet to be installed. Consequently, WTOM plans to use its full power transmitter and the interim antenna to effectuate the transition to its new post-repack channel. Because of the time needed to install the new full power top mount main antenna, WTOM will not be able to fully complete construction of its permanent post-repack facilities by the end of Phase 6 on October 18, 2019, but the station plans to cut-over using the interim facilities on its new channel on that date.

Because of these delays, WTOM will not be able to complete construction of its permanent post-repack facilities by the end of Phase 6 on October 18, 2019. Thus, WTOM 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 6, WTOM 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 WTOM to broadcast on its post-repack channel without disruption to the overall repack.

WTOM 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 6.