

KATU (TV) – Request for STA to Operate on Interim Facilities

Sinclair Portland Licensee, LLC, licensee of station KATU (TV), Portland, OR, FIN 21649 (“KATU”), 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. KATU hereby respectfully requests permission to operate from interim facilities, for a period of 120 days from October 18, 2019 until February 15, 2020.

KATU was originally assigned to Phase 3 of the repack to transition from Channel 43 to Channel 24 during Phase 3 of the repack. Subsequently, the FCC approved a Phase Change request to permit the station to move to Phase 6 of the repack (File No. 0000074829). The station was prepared to fully transition to Channel 24 by the Phase 6 deadline of October 18, 2019, but when final tests were conducted, it was determined that some of the RF components that are part of the station’s combiner were causing significant RF reflections. New parts are on order and it was recommended that the station operate at one-half power in the interim. Consequently, KATU will unexpectedly 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 on that date at 50% reduced power at 500 kW.

Thus, KATU 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, KATU will still transition to its post-repack channel. For this reason, the grant of the instant STA request would be in the public interest because it would allow KATU to broadcast on its post-repack channel without disruption to the overall repack.

KATU will cease operations on its pre-auction facilities and begin broadcasting on its post-auction channel utilizing the above-referenced temporary facilities before the completion of Phase 6.