

WUND-TV Transition Plan Progress Report

Consistent with the transition plan, WUND-TV is currently operating on its pre-transition channel at reduced power using its pre-transition main antenna as authorized by a DTV Engineering Special Temporary Authority (LMS File No. [0000082363](#)).

Because WUND-TV's transition plan has always contemplated the use of a post-transition interim facility, UNC-TV submitted a Construction Permit extension request (LMS File No. [0000086772](#)) for WUND-TV's Construction Permit (LMS File No. [0000025090](#)) on October 16, 2019, seeking extension of the station's full repack construction deadline to July 15, 2020. As of the date of this report, the extension request remains pending. UNC-TV has submitted a Digital Auxiliary Construction Permit Application for WUND-TV (LMS File No. [0000088265](#)) (for the station's initial post-transition interim operations). As of the date of this report the status of the Construction Permit application remains pending.

The WUND-TV transition plan has consistently called for work to be performed in 2 parts. Part 1 includes the work necessary for WUND-TV to begin operating on its post-transition channel utilizing an interim facility. Part 1 work began with the removal of the pre-transition main transmitter resulting in the current STA reduced power operations on the pre-transition main antenna using the pre-transition auxiliary transmitter. Removal of the pre-transition main transmitter has provided space to allow the installation of the new post-transition main transmitter (the pre-transition main transmitter couldn't be retuned to WUND-TV's post-transition channel) along with modifications to the building infrastructure necessary to support the operation of the new, post-transition transmitter. The installation of the new main transmitter is well underway with a planned completion date of early December 2019.

Part 1 tower work, including replacement of the pre-transition auxiliary antenna (which cannot be retuned to WUND-TV's post-transition channel) by the new post-transition auxiliary antenna, is complete. The existing auxiliary antenna system transmission line is being reused. The post-transition interim auxiliary antenna system is ready for use and, as noted above, will serve as part of WUND-TV's initial post-transition interim facility.

Part 2 of the transition plan will occur after WUND-TV has transitioned to its post-transition channel 29. Part 2 includes the removal of the pre-transition auxiliary transmitter as well as the completion of the building infrastructure modifications. Part 2 tower work includes (a) the removal of the existing main antenna (which cannot be retuned to WUND-TV's post-transition channel) and (b) the installation of the permanent post-transition main antenna system in the same location. The antenna work is tentatively scheduled to begin in March 2020. As of the date of this Transition Progress Report filing, UNC-TV cannot say with certainty whether construction of WUND-TV's full repack facility will be complete within the 180 days of the January 17, 2020, Phase 7 deadline (this 180-day period assumes that the station's repack CP extension request will be granted); while UNC-TV's objective is to have the project completed within 180 days of the Phase 7 deadline, certain elements of the project – including weather – will be beyond UNC-TV's control.

UNC-TV staff has been in contact with the upstream dependent linked set station for WUND-TV (WUND-TV is part of LSS 51). That station is WVBT, Virginia Beach, VA. We're attempting to schedule conversations with a WVBT representative about their planned repack timeline. WUND-TV would prefer to transition prior to the end of the Phase 7 testing window but understands that the transition must be coordinated, especially with upstream dependent linked set station partners. Hopefully, a mutually agreeable transition date can be set soon.

UNC-TV continues to submit additional budget updates for FCC Form 399. Among other things, these updates will reflect the general contractor costs, costs associated with the electrical challenges, and revised professional services pricing. Further budget adjustments may be necessary as this project continues.

We believe, as of this November 2019 filing, that the Phase 7 January 17, 2020, transition deadline remains achievable for WUND-TV, albeit using interim facilities. It is believed the biggest remaining issues are (i) the availability of the necessary skilled manpower required to properly and safely perform the remaining tasks, (ii) the availability of the specialized equipment required to safely perform the work, and (iii) the timely delivery of additional materials needed to complete the installation. A copy of the project schedule / timeline for the WUND-TV site is included with this transition report demonstrating that, as of the date of the filing of this Transition Progress Report, the transition deadline is achievable. Of course, UNC-TV reserves the right to update the project schedule / timeline as warranted to account for changes that may occur during this fluid process.

To reiterate, WUND-TV is planning to begin operating on its post-transition channel using its auxiliary facility on an interim basis until the main antenna system installation can be completed. Consistent with UNC-TV's North Carolina state statutory mission to provide noncommercial educational service to the residents of North Carolina, the interim system currently being used attempts to replicate as much as practically possible the population served by the proposed post-transition facility. When appropriate, UNC-TV will file, the required license to cover application for its proposed post-transition facility.

It bears repeating that The University of North Carolina (UNC-TV), Licensee of WUND-TV, Edenton, North Carolina, is a governmental agency of the State of North Carolina. As a state entity, it is legally required to comply with certain state requirements, restrictions, and policies regarding construction projects and the purchasing of goods and services. UNC-TV's repack transition project for 11 full-power television stations is no exception, and UNC-TV is required to abide by the applicable construction, contracting, and purchasing requirements, restrictions, and policies for all 11 stations, including WUNC-TV. Significantly, as UNC-TV has previously reported while UNC-TV's project is considered 11 different projects by the FCC, to the State of North Carolina and its representative agencies it is considered one project. The two state government agencies that are extensively involved in UNC-TV's repack (the State Office of Purchasing and Contracts ["P&C"] and the State Construction Office ["SCO"]) are requiring UNC-TV to bundle together all 11 station repack transitions as one unitary project request to them. While the 11 repack projects (including WUNC-TV) have so far progressed in a manner that is consistent with the Commission's nationwide transition expectations, UNC-TV's position within the State Government of North Carolina should remain an important consideration for the Commission as these projects continue to progress toward completion.

Transition Plan Progress Report
10-Week Report for Phase 7 Deadline
WUND-TV, Edenton, North Carolina (Fac. ID No. 69292)
The University of North Carolina

In short, UNC-TV's compound, complicated lodestar for this entire repack enterprise is timely completion of the repack with full compliance of all applicable state and federal regulations while—most importantly—keeping the station operating with as much coverage areas as possible with the least possible negative impact to viewers.