

WPXD-TV – Ann Arbor, Michigan

Facility ID: 5800

Request for Special Temporary Authority (STA)

ION Media License Company, LLC (“ION”), licensee of television station WPXD-TV, Ann Arbor, Michigan (FCC Facility ID No. 5800), requests special temporary authority (“STA”) for WPXD-TV(TV) to operate on its pre-auction Channel 50 using an interim antenna. WPXD-TV has been reassigned Channel 24 in the incentive auction’s repacking process and assigned to Transition Phase 8 of the repack with a Phase Completion Date of 3/13/2020.¹

The proposed STA system will be employed for use as an interim antenna to facilitate construction of WPXD-TV’s repack project transition from its licensed channel to its repack channel. Specifically, WPXD-TV will operate on its current Channel 50 using a side-mount interim antenna until the main antenna for WPXD-TV’s post-auction operations is installed and made operational. As demonstrated in the attached engineering exhibits, the request for temporary operation complies with the Commission’s rules and will authorize WPXD-TV’s continued operations on its pre-auction channel using an interim antenna during the repack transition period.

Grant of this STA for interim operations is in the public interest because it is in furtherance of WPXD-TV’s repack transition plan. Indeed, the Commission has specifically contemplated precisely this type of temporary, “interim” operation in furtherance of the overall post-auction transition in order to facilitate continuity of service for viewers and to avoid stations being off-the-air for periods of time during construction activities of repacked stations.² Thus, ION respectfully requests prompt processing and grant of this STA request.

¹ *Incentive Auction Closing and Channel Reassignment Public Notice: The Broadcast Television Incentive Auction Closes; Reverse Auction and Forward Auction Results Announced; Final Television Band Channel Assignments Announced; Post-Auction Deadlines Announced*, Public Notice, 32 FCC Red 2786 (WTB & MB 2017) (*Closing and Channel Reassignment Public Notice*).

² *Incentive Auction Task Force and Media Bureau Adopt a Post-Incentive Auction Transition Scheduling Plan*, Public Notice, 32 FCC Rcd 890 (2018), ¶ 62 (“[I]nterim and auxiliary facilities will be an important part of the transition for broadcasters and we will take action as appropriate to facilitate the use of such facilities and equipment.”).