

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](#)).

Consistent with the use of a post-transition interim facility, UNC-TV received a grant of the Construction Permit extension request (LMS File No. [0000086772](#)) for WUND-TV's Construction Permit (LMS File No. [0000025090](#)) extending the construction deadline to July 15, 2020.

WUND-TV plans to transition to its post-transition channel, albeit using the station's interim / auxiliary facility (the post-transition aux antenna CP was granted in LMS File No. [0000088265](#)), at noon on January 17, 2020. UNC-TV staff has been in contact with WVBT, Virginia Beach, VA, the upstream dependent linked set station for WUND-TV (WUND-TV is part of LSS 51) to coordinate WUND-TV's transition time line. UNC-TV wanted to transition WUND-TV in early December 2019. However, WVBT indicated that they couldn't meet that early deadline. As a result, WUND-TV has delayed its Phase 7 transition to noon on January 17, 2020 (which is, nevertheless, a timely transition for WUND-TV's Phase 7 repack project).

The WUND-TV transition plan has consistently called for work to be performed in 2 parts. Part 1 work necessary for WUND-TV to begin operating on its post-transition channel utilizing an interim facility has been completed. Part 1 work included the removal of the pre-transition main transmitter resulting in the current STA reduced power operations using the pre-transition auxiliary transmitter, the installation of the new post-transition main and auxiliary transmitters (replacing the existing transmitters that can't be retuned to WUND-TV's post-transition channel), and modifications to the building infrastructure necessary to support the operation of the new transmitters. Part 1 tower work has also been completed. It consisted of the installation of the interim auxiliary antenna system.

Part 2 of the transition plan will occur after WUND-TV has transitioned to its post-transition channel, 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 be completed in May 2020. While UNC-TV's objective is to have the project completed by the extended CP deadline, certain elements of the project – including weather – will be beyond UNC-TV's control. These elements could result in unforeseen delays causing the project completion date to extend beyond the July 15, 2020, deadline.

UNC-TV continues to submit additional budget updates for FCC Form 399. Among other things, these updates will reflect additional general contractor costs, and revised professional services pricing that are a result of the delay to WUND-TV's preferred transition plan to commence operations on the post-transition channel in early December 2019 because, as noted above, WUND-TV's upstream transition partner, WVBT, was not able to transition on UNC-TV's preferred time line. Further budget adjustments may be necessary as this project continues toward completion.

As of this early January 2020 filing, WUND-TV is ready to transition, 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 to be 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.

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.