

WMAW-TV, Meridian, MS – Request for Extension of Construction Permit
LMS File No. 0000026608

Mississippi Authority for Educational Television (“MAET”), licensee of noncommercial educational TV station WMAW-TV, Meridian, Mississippi (“WMAH”), respectfully requests additional time to construct its permanent post-auction facilities pursuant to an extension of its construction permit and/or a waiver of the tolling provisions contained in Section 73.3598 of the Commission’s rules. As set forth herein, WMAW has been unable to construct its permanent facilities due to circumstances beyond its control.

WMAW was assigned to Phase 7 of the repack transition. The station’s transition plan calls for, among other things, installation of a new repack transmitter. The crew began the work of swapping out the transmitter in early January 2019. However, due to equipment issues with the repack transmitter, the repack transmitter is not able to broadcast with its full power – instead, WMAW will be filing an STA soon to operate at reduced power (on its post-repack channel). Thus, WMAW is unable to complete the installation of its post-transition facilities by the CP expiration date (i.e., the Phase 7 deadline.)

Note that MAET will still meet the Phase 7 deadline of ceasing operation on its pre-transition channel and MAET will be able to continue broadcast services by commencing operation on its post-transition channel, albeit at reduced power.

Thus, at this time, MAET requires a short extension of time of its construction period until such time as the transmitter and electrical issues can be diagnosed and resolved in a way that permits full power operation of WMAW pursuant to its repack construction permit. MAET does not anticipate that the transmitter power issue will take long to resolve, but requests a full six-month extension out of an abundance of caution.

In the *Incentive Auction Report and Order*, the Commission stated that it would grant six-month extensions of post-auction construction permits pursuant to the incentive auction rules, and that further extensions of time would be subject to the tolling provisions contained in Section 73.3598 of the Commission’s rules.¹

For these reasons, MAET requests an extension of the construction permit for WMAW-TV post-transition repack facilities.

¹ See Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions, *Report and Order*, 29 FCC Rcd 6567, 6804-6806, paras. 580-584 (2014) (“*Incentive Auction Report and Order*”); 47 C.F.R. § 73.3598.