

WNEO(TV) – Request for Extension of Time to Construct
LMS File No. 34304

Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio (“NETO”), licensee of noncommercial educational TV station WNEO(TV), Alliance, Ohio (“WNEO”), hereby requests an extension of time to complete construction of its permanent post-auction facilities. *See* 47 C.F.R. Section 73.3700(b)(5)(iv).¹ WNEO requests an additional 180 days to construct, *i.e.*, until September 9, 2020.

WNEO is assigned to transition from Channel 45 to Channel 29 in Phase 8 of the repack. The station’s transition plan calls for, among other things, serious tower work or even complete replacement of the station’s tower. The station has attempted to work with its tower contractor, Warmus and Associates, to determine the extent of upgrades that will be necessary to ensure that the tower can support WNEO’s permanent post-repack facilities. WNEO provided all the materials needed to complete the tower study in early August 2019. In December 2019, the contractor reported by telephone that the tower studies were complete and that the tower did not comply with the current building code but that it could be brought into compliance with extensive reinforcements. To date, the station has not received either a written report reflecting these findings or any further timing guidance on completion of reinforcement plans or scheduling the reinforcement work itself.

WNEO has ordered all of the equipment necessary to build the permanent facilities authorized by its repack construction permit and stands ready to build its post-repack facilities as soon as the tower is reinforced to meet the current building code. WNEO also has ordered an interim side-mount antenna and interim transmission line to ensure continuity of service to viewers until tower reinforcements can be completed and intends to request special temporary authority to operate from these interim facilities shortly.

Because of the extensive delays it has faced working with its tower contractor, WNEO will not be able to complete construction of its permanent post-repack facilities by the end of Phase 8 on March 13, 2020. Thus, WNEO respectfully requests that its construction permit for its post-repack facilities (LMS File No. 34304) be extended for 180 days, or until September 9, 2020. The requested extension of time will not impact the repack efforts of other stations because prior to the completion of Phase 8, WNEO will cease operations on its pre-auction facilities and begin broadcasting on its post-auction channel over temporary facilities.

¹ This request has been filed fewer than 90 days before WNEO’s current construction deadline. Because of uncertainty regarding the tower work necessary, WNEO was unable to file this extension request 90 days before the end of Phase 8. WNEO thus respectfully requests a waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 3700(b)(5)(iv).