

Request for Tolling of Construction Permit -- WABM

Birmingham (WABM-TV) Licensee, Inc., licensee of digital television broadcast station WABM(TV), Birmingham, AL (Facility ID No. 16820) (the "Station"), pursuant to Section 73.3598(b) of the Commission's rules, respectfully requests a waiver of the Commission's tolling provisions for the Station's post-auction construction permit ("CP") for Channel 20 (*See* LMS File No. 0000034382, as extended in LMS File No. 0000080558). The Station is currently operating on its post-auction Channel 20 using interim facilities pursuant to special temporary authority (LMS File No. 0000080641). Based on the following circumstances, the Station respectfully requests tolling of the Station's CP for an additional period of 180 days.

On September 3, 2019, the FCC granted a 180-day extension with respect to the Station's CP (*See* LMS File No. 0000080558) until March 4, 2020. On August 30, 2019, the FCC granted the Station's STA request to operate with interim facilities (LMS File No. 0000080641). That STA expires on March 2, 2020 and a separate extension request is being filed with the Commission. The Station is currently operating on that STA with interim facilities on its post repack Channel 20, and hereby requests an additional 180 days to complete construction of the Station's final facilities.

The Station has made significant progress in constructing its post-transition facilities, including partial installation of the Station's full power post-transition transmitter. Installation of the Station's permanent transmission line is Scheduled for March 1, 2020, and installation by helicopter of the Station's permanent antenna is scheduled for March 10, 2020. However, due to the unavailability of transmitter crews, who currently are focusing on completion of the repack of Phase 8 stations by the Phase 8 deadline (i.e., March 13, 2020), the Station does not anticipate that installation of the post-transition transmitter will be completed until after March 13, 2020.

Consequently, the licensee respectfully requests that its CP be tolled since it is not able to operate on its permanent post-repack facilities at this time and therefore is not able to cover its CP as planned with a license application. Accordingly, the Station seeks a brief extension of time of 180 days to complete the transition to the Station's post-transition facility. This extension will allow the Station and its associated crews to complete the work necessary for the final construction and installation of the post-transition facilities. The Station respectfully submits that this request is in the public interest because it would allow crews to be deployed first to Phase 8 repack work, while allowing the Station to continue providing broadcast service to viewers in its community until the necessary work for the Station's repack can be completed.