

## **WABM – Request for Extension of STA to Operate on Interim Facilities**

Birmingham (WABM-TV) Licensee, Inc., licensee of station WABM(TV), Birmingham, AL, FIN 16820 (“WABM”), hereby requests a 180-day extension of its special temporary authority (LMS File No. 0000080641), due to circumstances beyond its control, to continue to operate on interim facilities while its permanent facilities are completed, and further requests a waiver of the Commission’s rules to the extent necessary. WABM hereby respectfully requests permission to operate from interim facilities for a period of 180 days from March 2, 2020 until August 29, 2020.

WABM was assigned to transition from Channel 36 to Channel 20 in Phase 5 of the repack, but was granted an extension of its post-auction construction permit (LMS File No. 0000034382, as extended in LMS File No. 0000080558) and is separately requesting a further extension due to circumstances beyond its control.

WABM has made significant progress in constructing its post-transition facilities, including partial installation of its full power post-transition transmitter. Installation of the permanent transmission line is Scheduled for March 1, 2020, and installation by helicopter of the 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), WABM does not anticipate that installation of the post-transition transmitter will be completed until after March 13, 2020.

WABM respectfully requests an STA extension to continue to operate on its post-repack channel from interim facilities while construction is completed on its permanent facilities. This request will not impact the repack efforts of other stations because, WABM will continue to operate on its post-repack channel. Furthermore, grant of the instant STA request would be in the public interest because it would allow WABM to continue to broadcast on its post-repack channel without disruption to the overall repack.