



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

February 26, 2020

ION Media License Company, LLC
601 Clearwater Park Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Re: Request for Extension of
Construction Permit
WPXD-TV, Ann Arbor, MI
Facility ID No. 5800
LMS File No. 0000106075

Dear Licensee,

On February 14, 2020, ION Media License Company, LLC (Licensee), the licensee of Station WPXD-TV, Ann Arbor, Michigan (the Station), filed the above captioned application seeking an extension of the Station's construction permit expiration date and waiver of the 90-day construction permit extension filing deadline. For the reasons below, we grant Licensee's requests and extend the Station's construction permit expiration date to September 9, 2020.

Background. Pursuant to Section 73.3700(b)(5) of the Commission's rules, a station may request a single extension of its construction permit deadline of up to 180 days to complete construction of its post-auction facility.¹ Grant of an extension of the construction permit deadline does not alter the deadline by which a station must cease operating on its pre-auction channel. A station anticipating the need for an extension must submit an extension application using FCC Form 2100, Schedule 337, not less than 90 days before the assigned construction permit deadline.² For Phase 8 stations, such application was due by December 16, 2019. The application must demonstrate that the station is unable to complete construction on time due to circumstances that were either unforeseeable or beyond the station's control.³ In addition, a waiver of the application filing deadline is appropriate where the particular facts would make strict compliance inconsistent with the public interest and deviation from the general rule would relieve hardship, promote equity, or produce a more effective implementation of overall policy on an individual basis.⁴

¹ See 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5). All subsequent requests for additional time to construct are subject to the Commission's tolling provisions, 47 CFR § 73.3598(b).

² 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5)(iv).

³ The *Incentive Auction R&O* provides examples of six circumstances that might justify an 180-day extension of a station's post-auction construction permit: (1) weather related delays; (2) delays in construction due to the unavailability of equipment or a tower crew; (3) tower lease disputes; (4) unusual technical challenges; or (5) delays caused by the need to obtain government approvals, such as land use or zoning approvals, or to observe competitive bidding requirements prior to purchasing equipment or services; and (6) financial hardship with sufficient supporting evidence. See *Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions*, GN Docket No. 12-268 et. al., Report and Order, 29 FCC Rcd 6567,6804-05, paras. 581-2 (2014) (*Incentive Auction R&O*); 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5)(ii) and (iii).

⁴ See *Northeast Cellular Telephone Co. v. FCC*, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990) and *WAIT Radio v. FCC*, 418 F.2d 1153, 1159 (D.C. Cir. 1969), *cert. denied*, 409 U.S. 1072 (1972); 47 CFR § 1.3 (waiver for good cause shown).

The Station was repacked from channel 50 to channel 24 and assigned to transition Phase 8, which has a phase completion date of March 13, 2020. All repacked stations for Phase 8 were issued a construction permit with an expiration date of March 13, 2020. The Station pledges to cease operation on its pre-auction channel by the phase completion date and operate a temporary facility while it completes construction of its permanent post-auction facilities.⁵

Licensee states that, although the Station had intended to transition to its post-auction channel by the phase completion date, it has recently experienced construction scheduling delays. As a result, Licensee maintains that insufficient time remains to complete all aspects of the work as originally contemplated. In light of these delays, Licensee requests a 180-day extension.

Licensee also requests a waiver of the 90-day construction permit extension filing deadline because it did not know for certain it would require an extension at the time of the deadline.

Discussion. Upon review of the facts and circumstances presented, we find Licensee's request to extend the construction permit deadline to construct the Station's post-auction facility meets the requirements for a construction permit extension. Licensee has demonstrated that an extension is needed because of construction delays. We also find that grant of this extension request is not likely to negatively impact the overall transition schedule. The Station will cease operations on its pre-auction channel by the Phase 8 completion date and operate a temporary facility. To the extent viewers are unable to receive the Station's signal while it operates its temporary facility, we believe that Licensee has every incentive to ensure viewers are fully informed about the Station's transition plan. Finally, we find that waiver of the 90-day construction permit extension filing deadline is in the public interest and consistent with the Commission's general waiver standard because Licensee was unaware at the time an extension request was due that an extension of the Station's construction permit would be needed.⁶

We remind Licensee that pursuant to the Spectrum Act, the Station is eligible for reimbursement from the TV Broadcast Relocation Fund (Fund) of costs "reasonably incurred . . . in order for the licensee to relocate its television service from one channel to the other."⁷ Additional expenses incurred, for instance, as a result of the grant of changes in the Station's transition plan that are not related to the post-incentive auction channel change, may not be reimbursable from the Fund.

The above facts considered, ION Media License Company, LLC's application for extension of construction permit expiration date **IS GRANTED**. The construction permit (LMS File No. 0000034355) for WPXD-TV, Ann Arbor, Michigan **IS EXTENDED to September 9, 2020**. Grant of this extension does not permit the Station to recommence operation on its pre-auction channel after ceasing operation or after March 13, 2020, whichever occurs first. We also remind Licensee that any

⁵ See LMS File No. 0000090678.

⁶ See *supra* note 4.

⁷ 47 U.S.C. § 1452(b)(4)(A)(i). See also *Incentive Auction R&O*, 29 FCC Rcd at 6821, para. 622 ("The appropriate scope of 'costs reasonably incurred' necessarily will have to be decided on a case-by-case basis.").

subsequent requests for extension of its construction permit deadline will be subject to the Commission's tolling provisions.⁸

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. A. Kreisman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Barbara A. Kreisman
Chief, Video Division
Media Bureau

cc (via electronic mail): Ms. Bianca Frye

⁸ See 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5)(i) (referencing 47 § CFR 73.3598(b)).