

First Quarter 2020 Quarterly Transition Progress Report for WMOW

This Transition Progress Report is being filed on April 10, 2020, to provide an update on WMOW's post-transition repack construction progress.

In mid-March 2020, the licensee filed an application to extend WMOW's Phase 9 repack CP for a period of 90 days. See LMS File No. [0000107818](#) ("CP Extension Request"). At that time, the effects and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the broadcast industry and nationwide transition were not known (though we adverted to them in the filing), and as of this April 10 filing it would probably be premature for the licensee to suggest that we have a full grasp on the ultimate impacts of COVID-19 on WMOW's final repack construction. Relevant thereto, it is worth noting that the WMOW CP Extension Request was filed on March 12 and subsequently amended on March 16, one day before the Commission provided Phase 9 stations (such as WMOW) with flexibility to change to Phase 10 if necessitated by the COVID-19 crisis. See *Guidance for Stations in Phase 9 of the Post-Incentive Auction as a Result of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic*, Public Notice, DA 20-282, (rel. Mar. 17, 2020) ("COVID-19 Repack PN").

Following the release of the COVID-19 Repack PN, the licensee engaged in discussions and coordination with other stations in WMOW's LSS 68; subsequently, a uniform decision was reached for LSS 68 stations to move from Phase 9 to Phase 10 as a result of construction challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic (including, in particular, the sudden lack of qualified vendors to complete each of the LSS 68 stations' repack projects). Accordingly, the licensee filed on April 9 an application to change WMOW's phase from 9 to 10. See LMS File No. [0000111921](#) ("Phase Change Application"). Thus, WMOW anticipates—subject to further COVID-19 pandemic challenges, which are unknown and unknowable at this time as noted above—that it will cease operating on its pre-transition channel 12 on July 3 (i.e., the final day of Phase 10). At that time—as discussed in the pending CP Extension Request—WMOW will be silent for a few weeks while the tower is stripped and the antenna and transmission line are replaced. During that time, the transmitter building (which is too small to fit both the pre-transition and post-transition transmitters) will also be gutted and the new, post-transition transmitter will be installed. This plan is discussed in the pending CP Extension Request in LMS File No. [0000107818](#). Because the CP Extension Request was predicated on a Phase 9 transition, we also anticipate filing an amendment to the CP Extension Request in the future to synchronize the new Phase 10 dates (assuming that the Phase Change Application is ultimately granted). However, we are waiting to see the nature and extent to which additional havoc is wreaked on the planned construction schedule and vendor availability relating to the Phase 10 July 3 deadline before we amend the pending CP Extension Request.

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