

Request for STA to Operate on Interim Facilities – WVTV(TV)

WVTV Licensee Inc., licensee of station WVTV(TV), Milwaukee, WI, FIN 74174 (“WVTV”), hereby requests special temporary authority (“STA”), 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. WVTV was granted STA on November 4, 2019 (LMS File 0000086671) to operate with interim facilities and hereby requests extension of such STA to enable it to continue to operate from interim facilities for a period of 180 days; i.e., from April 15, 2020 until October 12, 2020.

WVTV was assigned to transition from Channel 18 to Channel 27 in Phase 6 of the repack. WVTV’s construction of its permanent facilities has been delayed due to construction and crew delays. As Media Bureau staff is aware, the station’s engineers, tower crews and transmitter crews have been unable to travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in further delays.

As of this filing the station’s post-repack permanent full power transmitter and top mount antenna have yet to be installed; therefore, WVTV plans to continue to use its interim transmitter and antenna to continue operation on its post-repack channel. Because of the time needed to install the new main full power transmitter and top mount antenna, WVTV will not be able to fully complete construction of its permanent post-repack facilities by the expiration date of its current STA, which is April 15, 2020, but the station plans to continue to operate using the interim facilities.

Thus, WVTV respectfully requests an STA 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 WVTV has transitioned to its post-repack channel. Furthermore, grant of the instant STA request would be in the public interest because it would allow WVTV to continue to broadcast on its post-repack channel without disruption to the overall repack.