

**Gray Television Licensee, LLC  
WEAU(TV), Eau Claire, WI (FID 7893)**

Gray Television Licensee, LLC, licensee of WEAU(TV), Eau Claire, Wisconsin, requests an extension of time to complete the facilities specified in the station's modified repack construction permit (File No. 0000106661). WEAU will transition from its pre-auction facility using an interim facility on its post-auction Channel 17 by its Phase 10 deadline of July 3, 2020. Because of delays with its tower crew—specifically the helicopter needed to remove the old antenna—WEAU will not be able to complete its final post-auction facility prior to the expiration date of its construction permit.

Due to circumstances outside of its control, WEAU is not be able to complete construction of its final authorized facilities by the expiration date of its construction permit.<sup>1</sup> Gray requests an extension of time of up to one hundred and eighty days (180) to complete construction of the WEAU post-auction facility.

Section 73.3700(b)(5) provides that the Media Bureau may grant an extension of time up to six months for stations that are unable to complete construction of their post-auction facilities “due to circumstances that are either unforeseeable or beyond licensee’s control.”<sup>2</sup>

WEAU is unable to complete construction of its post-auction facility because of tower crew delays relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the Station had scheduled an Erickson helicopter to remove the current antenna and install the replacement antenna. Erickson has informed the Station that due to COVID-19 travel restrictions; its large capacity helicopters are stuck in South America. The Station is actively seeking alternate helicopter companies to perform the installation, although so far without success. There are many stations impacted by the Erickson cancellation that are all seeking alternate crews. The Station has completed construction of its interim facility, which will be ready to operate by the Phase deadline.

Therefore, Gray respectfully requests an extension of the deadline of up to 180 days to allow it to complete construction of the final WEAU post-auction facility.

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<sup>1</sup> Gray requests that the Media Bureau accept this request for extension of its construction permit as late filed. 73.3700(b)(5)(iv) requires the filing of an extension request at least ninety (90) days prior to a station's construction permit deadline. As explained above, the station did not have confirmation until recently that the helicopter scheduled would be unavailable. The station has been diligently seeking an alternate helicopter company to perform the work.

<sup>2</sup> 73.3700(b)(5)(i).