

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

Sinclair Portland Licensee, LLC, licensee of station KATU(TV), Portland, OR, FIN 21649 (“KATU”), 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. KATU was granted an STA on April 14, 2020 (LMS File 0000112169) 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 120 days; i.e., from June 17, 2020 until October 15, 2020.

KATU has transitioned from Channel 43 to its post-auction Channel 24 and is operating with interim facilities on Channel 24 under the STA described above. The licensee has made significant progress in constructing KATU’s permanent post-transition facilities, including installation of the permanent antenna and transmitter. However, RF issues involving the combiner have prevented the station from operating at full power. Work on the combiner has been delayed because of travel restrictions on technical personnel employed by the manufacturer due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Consequently, the licensee respectfully requests that its CP be tolled since it is not able to operate on its permanent post-repack facilities at this time and therefore is not able to cover its CP as planned with a license application. Accordingly, the Station seeks a brief 120-day extension of the STA to complete construction of the station’s post-transition facility. This extension will allow KATU to complete the work necessary for construction and installation of the station’s final post-transition facilities.

This request will not impact the repack efforts of other stations because KATU has transitioned to its post-repack channel. Furthermore, grant of this STA request would be in the public interest because it would allow KATU to continue to broadcast on its post-repack channel without disruption to the overall repack.