

Request for Extension of Post-Auction Construction Permit

WLAX(TV), La Crosse, Wisconsin, FAC ID 2710, respectfully requests an extension of its post-auction construction permit for Channel 33. See LMS File No. 0000027619. WLAX(TV) is slated to transition to its post-auction channel 33 in Phase 10 (by/before July 3, 2020).

As the Media Bureau is aware, WLAX(TV) transitioned from its pre-auction Channel 17 facilities and began interim operations on its post-auction Channel 33 facilities in May 2020. Nexstar sought and received special temporary authority (“STA”) to operate with interim facilities in order to vacate its pre-auction Channel 17. See STA Request LMS File No. 0000113397.

WLAX(TV)’s post-transition (final) antenna has not yet been installed due to COVID related issues including rigging delays. Consequently, Nexstar is concurrently seeking an extension of WLAX(TV)’s interim facility operations STA. See STA Request LMS File No. 0000116852, which remains pending.

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 73.3700(b)(5), the Media Bureau has the authority to provide an extension of the construction deadline for up to six months if the reassigned station encounters circumstances that include weather delays, construction delays, tower lease disputes, unusual technical challenges and permitting and zoning delays. As disclosed above, Nexstar is now subject to unavoidable construction delays. Accordingly, Nexstar respectfully requests an extension of its post-auction construction permit until December 30, 2020.

To the extent necessary, Nexstar also requests a waiver of the Commission’s requirement that requests for extension of post-auction construction deadlines be submitted 90 days prior to the existing construction permit deadline. Nexstar has made every effort to meet the Phase 10 transition deadline but only recently determined that the antenna installation would be significantly delayed until after July 3, 2020. Grant of this waiver request and the further extension of the CP would be in the public interest as it would allow the orderly transition of the station to its post-auction Channel 33 final facilities while still allowing the station to remain on the air serving its community while Nexstar completes the WLAX(TV) post-auction facility.