

## WUNP-TV Transition Plan Progress Report

Consistent with the extended deadline for Phase 5 (necessitated by Hurricane Dorian), WUNP-TV in the early morning hours of September 11, 2019, ceased operation on its pre-transition channel and began operating on its post-transition channel, channel 27, utilizing an interim facility. The interim facility is the licensed auxiliary facility for WUNP-TV (LMS File No. [0000081303](#)).

Consistent with the use of a post-transition interim facility, UNC-TV submitted a tolling waiver request (LMS File No. [0000116243](#)) to extend the previously granted tolling waiver request (LMS File No. [0000107047](#)) to extend the previously granted Construction Permit extension request (LMS File No. [0000074598](#)) for WUNP-TV's Construction Permit (LMS File No. [0000025919](#) as modified by LMS File No. [0000034416](#)) requesting further extension of the construction deadline.

As mentioned in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2020 report, the WUNP-TV building modifications and transmitter installations have been completed. The most significant item remaining is the main antenna system installation.

This work includes (a) the removal of the existing main antenna (which cannot be retuned to WUNP-TV's post-transition channel) and (b) the installation of the permanent post-transition main antenna system in the same location. This work was initially rescheduled to be completed in early June 2020. As previously reported, the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted that construction timeline.

At this time some of GTI-America's Canadian based crews have been able to return to work in the United States. The WUNP-TV main antenna system installation began the week of July 6<sup>th</sup> with the arrival of the tower crew at the site. If no unforeseen problems occur, the work is expected to require 4 weeks to complete with a completion date in early August 2020.

If necessary, UNC-TV may submit additional budget updates for FCC Form 399. Among other things, these updates may reflect costs to address unforeseen issues, and additional professional services costs. Further budget adjustments may be necessary as this project continues.

As of this early July 2020 filing, the completion of the installation work and commencement of final post-transition operations utilizing the station's main facility is, as referenced above, early August 2020. The uncertainty of the completion date is primarily due to the uncertainty of the duration of the necessary closings and restrictions that have been put in place to limit the spread of and attempt to mitigate—locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally—the effects of the COVID-19 virus. Beyond that, it is believed the biggest remaining issues are (i) the availability and scheduling of the necessary skilled manpower required to properly and safely perform the remaining tasks, (ii) the availability and scheduling of the specialized equipment required to safely perform the work, and (iii) the weather conditions to allow completion of the required work at the site. While UNC-TV's objective is to have the project completed as soon as possible, certain elements of the project – including the COVID-19 pandemic and weather – are beyond UNC-TV's control.

To reiterate, WUNP-TV is operating on its post-transition channel using its licensed auxiliary facility on an interim basis until the main antenna system installation can be completed. Consistent with UNC-TV's North Carolina state statutory mission to provide noncommercial educational service to the residents of North

Carolina, the interim system currently being used attempts to replicate as much as practically possible the population served by the final, full post-transition facility. When appropriate, UNC-TV will file the required license to cover application for its proposed post-transition facility.

It bears repeating that The University of North Carolina (UNC-TV), Licensee of WUNP-TV, Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, is a governmental agency of the State of North Carolina. As a state entity, it is legally required to comply with certain state requirements, restrictions, and policies regarding construction projects and the purchasing of goods and services. UNC-TV's repack transition project for 11 full-power television stations is no exception, and UNC-TV is required to abide by the applicable construction, contracting, and purchasing requirements, restrictions, and policies for all 11 stations, including WUNP-TV. Significantly, as UNC-TV has previously reported while UNC-TV's project is considered 11 different projects by the FCC, to the State of North Carolina and its representative agencies it is considered one project. The two state government agencies that are extensively involved in UNC-TV's repack (the State Office of Purchasing and Contracts ["P&C"] and the State Construction Office ["SCO"]) required UNC-TV to bundle together all 11 station repack transitions as one unitary project request to them. While the 11 repack projects (including WUNP-TV) have so far progressed in a manner that is consistent with the Commission's nationwide transition expectations, UNC-TV's position within the State Government of North Carolina should remain an important consideration for the Commission as these projects continue to progress toward completion.

In short, UNC-TV's compound, complicated lodestar for this entire repack enterprise is timely completion of the repack with full compliance of all applicable state and federal regulations while—most importantly—keeping the station operating with as much coverage areas as possible with the least possible negative impact to viewers.