Engineering STA Request Explanation

Televicentro of Puerto Rico, LLC, licensee of station WNJX-TV, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico (Facility ID No. 73336) (the "Station"), hereby requests Special Temporary Authority ("STA")) from the Commission so that WNJX-TV may continue operations on its post-auction channel at 116 kW via an interim antenna from its auxiliary antenna site. The Station previously filed and was granted STA Extensions on December 9, 2019 (File No. 0004343323), June 12, 2019 (File No. 0000074537) and December 18, 2018 (File No. 0000064217). The licensee inadvertently failed to file for an extension of the existing STA before it expired on June 10, 2020, and is therefore filing this request for a new STA.

Because of the damage from Hurricane Maria, extensive modifications to the WNJX-TV tower are needed. Construction at the Station site is complex. Specifically, the Station needs to remove an existing antenna stack before the tower can be reinforced; needs to coordinate with two other stations on the same tower; and the limited space at the construction site requires careful coordination of cranes and other equipment. Since the STA was granted, the ability to schedule a certified tower crew to perform the complex and difficult work has become even more difficult because of the high demand for tower crews that have the necessary equipment due to the increasing number of television stations going through the repack process as well as travel restrictions and stay at home orders issued because of the COVID-19 virus. Televicentro is pleased to report that it has accepted a proposal from a qualified tower crew for the first phase of the work needed for the WNJX-TV tower and has made an initial deposit. The station expects to receive a schedule from the tower company soon. Operation via interim antenna is therefore necessary for the Station to remain on the air while the necessary modifications are completed at WNJX-TV's permanent post-auction site. An STA is in the public interest because it will allow WNJX-TV to remain on the air to broadcast its programming to the public while construction of its permanent facilities is completed.