

Request for Tolling, Reinstatement and Extension of Construction Permit and Waiver

East Tennessee Public Communications Corp. (“East Tenn”), licensee of WETP-TV, Sneedville, Tennessee (Facility ID No. 18252) (the “Station”), pursuant to Section 73.3700(b)(5)(i) of the Commission’s rules, respectfully requests that the WETP-TV post-auction construction permit (“CP”) for Channel 24 (LMS No. 0000097689) be reinstated and extended. The expiration date of the Station’s CP was January 17, 2020. The Station is currently operating on its post-auction Channel 24 using interim facilities pursuant to STA request. Based on the following unusual and extraordinary circumstances, East Tenn seeks reinstatement of the construction permit and extension until August 15, 2020. East Tenn also requests, to the extent necessary, a waiver of the Commission’s rules to accept the instant request. In this regard, it should be noted that East Tenn has faced significant challenges relative to the construction of its tower.

As the Commission is aware, tower crews are, to say the least, in short supply. During the construction of the tower, the crew was forced to isolate when several of the members were stricken by the coronavirus. This and the scheduling of a replacement crew engendered significant delays.

At the present, the tower construction is virtually complete. A license to cover application is anticipated to be filed no later than August 10, 2020.

Because of the amount of effort which has been expended and the virtual completeness of construction, it is urged that the CP be reinstated and extended for a few weeks.

East Tenn submits that a grant of the instant request would be in the public interest.