

WTTW(TV) – Request for Extension of STA

Window to the World Communications, Inc., licensee of noncommercial educational TV station WTTW(TV), Chicago, Illinois (“WTTW”), hereby requests a further six month extension of its special temporary authority to operate from an interim antenna pending construction of its permanent post-auction facilities. WTTW requests until STA until April 12, 2021. As set forth herein, WTTW has been unable to construct its permanent facilities due to rare and exceptional circumstances beyond its control and thus continued STA is necessary.

Background

WTTW was assigned to transition from Channel 47 to Channel 25 in Phase 6 of the repack. WTTW’s repack plan called for, among other things, replacement of the station’s main antenna, which is to be located on the west tower at Willis Tower in Chicago. WTTW transitioned to Channel 25 operations with interim facilities on October 15, 2019. Because Willis Tower is a shared transmission site hosting primary and auxiliary facilities for multiple television broadcasters on two separate towers, all of WTTW’s repack work has been, and will continue to be, subject to extensive coordination with the Willis Tower building and the other collocated broadcasters.

As a result of the complicated Willis tower repack and coordination, WTTW has unable to utilize its authorized main antenna for channel 25 repack. WTTW did, however, transition as required to channel 25 operations utilizing interim facilities and has been operating on these interim facilities pursuant to special temporary authority since the end of Phase 6. WTTW had hoped to transition to its permanent facilities by this time, but the Chicago Building Department has imposed new requirements for zoning drawings.

By a separate filing, WTTW is requesting tolling and reinstatement of its repack construction permit. WTTW therefore requests a further STA to allow it to provide continued service to its viewers pending construction of its permanent facilities. Grant of STA is in the public interest because it will allow WTTW (and its channel sharing partner WYCC) to continue to broadcast with interim facilities until the new main WTTW antenna can be installed and brought into operation.