

Adherence to Minimum Operating Schedule

Since Richard J. Samson, as Receiver, became the licensee of KOBB(AM), Bozeman, Montana (Facility ID No. 55677) (“KOBB”), on December 6, 2019,¹ KOBB was silent for two (2) periods exceeding 30 consecutive days: (1) December 6, 2019 to May 14, 2020; and (2) May 25, 2020 to the present.

KOBB has had a history of struggling to remain on the air due to financial issues originating under its former licensee, Reier Broadcasting Company, Inc. (“Reier Broadcasting”), which resulted in Reier Broadcasting entering Mr. Samson’s receivership following the death of Reier Broadcasting’s sole shareholder and President, William R. Reier, on September 2, 2019.² Mr. Samson was named Receiver of the Reier Broadcasting assets in an order dated October 25, 2019 issued by the Montana Eighteenth Judicial District Court.³ On November 12, 2019, an application for the involuntary assignment of KOBB’s license from Reier Broadcasting to Mr. Samson, was filed with the Commission.⁴ That application was granted and consummated on December 6, 2019.⁵ Mr. Samson’s primary duty as Receiver of Reier Broadcasting is to find a buyer for Reier Broadcasting’s stations, including KOBB, which, as further detailed below, has now been accomplished.

KOBB’s Periods of Silence Under Reier Broadcasting Company, Inc.

1st Period of Silence (June 1, 2018 – May 18, 2019). On June 1, 2018, KOBB went silent due to financial difficulties of its former licensee, Reier Broadcasting.⁶ On June 12, 2018, Reier Broadcasting filed a Notification of Suspension of Operations/ Request for Silent Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) for KOBB, which was granted August 17, 2018.⁷ Due to continuing financial difficulties, Reier Broadcasting then filed a Request for Extension of Silent

¹ See File No. BAL-20191112ABB.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ See File No. BLSTA-20180612AAL.

⁷ *Id.*; Letter from Lisa Scanlan, Deputy Chief, Audio Division, Media Bureau, FCC, to Matthew H. McCormick, Esq., Counsel for Reier Broadcasting Company, Inc. (1800B3-DW) (Aug. 17, 2018).

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Adherence to Minimum Operating Schedule Exhibit**

STA for KOBB, which was granted March 25, 2019.⁸ KOBB resumed operations on May 18, 2019 with facilities authorized under STA.⁹

2nd Period of Silence (June 4, 2019 – December 6, 2019). KOBB again went silent on June 4, 2019 due to Reier Broadcasting's continuing financial difficulties.¹⁰ On June 5, 2019, Reier Broadcasting filed Notification of Suspension of Operations/ Request for Silent STA for KOBB, which was granted June 27, 2019.¹¹ KOBB remained silent until Mr. Samson, its current licensee, acquired control of the station on December 6, 2019.¹²

KOBB's Periods of Silence Under Richard J. Samson, as Receiver

1st Period of Silence (December 6, 2019 – May 14, 2020). KOBB was silent when Mr. Samson acquired control of the station on December 6, 2019.¹³ Due to KOBB's continuing financial difficulties, Mr. Samson filed a Request for Extension of Silent STA for KOBB, which was granted January 27, 2020.¹⁴ KOBB resumed operations on May 14, 2020, with facilities authorized under STA.¹⁵

2nd Period of Silence (May 25, 2020 – Present). KOBB again went silent on May 25, 2020 due to Mr. Samson's financial difficulties in operating the station.¹⁶ On May 26, 2020, Mr. Samson filed a Notification of Suspension of Operations/ Request for Silent STA for KOBB,

⁸ File No. BLESTA-20190206ABB; Letter from Lisa Scanlan, Deputy Chief, Audio Division, Media Bureau, FCC, to Matthew H. McCormick, Esq., Counsel for Reier Broadcasting Company, Inc. (1800B3-KC) (Mar. 25, 2019).

⁹ Resumption of Operations Notification (KOBB) (filed May 24, 2019). *See also* File No. BSTA-20190524AAL (granted May 31, 2019).

¹⁰ *See* File No. BLSTA-20190605ACB.

¹¹ *Id.*; Letter from Lisa Scanlan, Deputy Chief, Audio Division, Media Bureau, FCC, to Matthew H. McCormick, Esq., Counsel for Reier Broadcasting Company, Inc. (1800B3-MAT) (June 27, 2019).

¹² *See* File No. BAL-20191112ABB.

¹³ *See id.*

¹⁴ File No. BLESTA-20191218AAK; Letter from Victoria McCauley, Attorney, Audio Division, Media Bureau, FCC, to Matthew H. McCormick, Esq., Counsel for Richard J. Samson, as Receiver (1800B3-DW) (Jan. 27, 2020).

¹⁵ Resumption of Operations Notification (KOBB) (filed May 15, 2020). *See also* File No. BSTA-20200409AAJ (granted April 13, 2020).

¹⁶ *See* File No. BLSTA-20200526AAE.

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Adherence to Minimum Operating Schedule Exhibit

noting that he was actively pursuing the sale of KOBB pursuant to his duties as Receiver of Reier Broadcasting.¹⁷ The STA Request was granted on July 15, 2020.¹⁸

Mr. Samson has now identified a buyer for KOBB, and on November 9, 2020, an application to assign KOBB's license to SW Montana Media, LLC was filed with the Commission.¹⁹

¹⁷ *See id.*

¹⁸ Letter from Victoria McCauley, Attorney, Audio Division, Media Bureau, FCC, to Matthew H. McCormick, Esq., Counsel for Richard J. Samson, as Receiver (1800B3-DW) (July 15, 2020).

¹⁹ *See* File No. BAL-20201109AAV.