

Request for Extension of STA

Justification for Extension of STA

VPM Media Corporation (“Licensee”), licensee of television station WVPT(TV), Staunton, VA (Fac. ID 60111) (the “Station”) hereby requests a six-month extension of its special temporary authority to operate using temporary facilities. As detailed in the request for waiver of tolling that Licensee is filing concurrently with this application, Licensee is in the process of redesigning the Station’s post-Incentive Auction facilities after the initial plans to retune the Station’s transmitter became infeasible and it was determined that the Station’s existing tower cannot accommodate a new antenna.

Since the Commission first granted the Licensee’s request for Special Temporary Authority to utilize its existing facilities on a temporary basis, Licensee has been working diligently to complete construction of its permanent facilities, including obtaining quotes for a transmitter that will produce the required output power, hiring a consulting engineer for the system redesign, and working with the tower owner to identify a solution to either upgrade the existing tower or construct a new tower. Although Licensee expected to receive a proposal from the tower owner in July, that has not happened. It is Licensee’s understanding that the tower owner continues to work with local officials and the U.S. Forest Service to obtain approval for the necessary upgrades. In the meantime, winter conditions have rendered the tower site inaccessible.

Licensee believes that it will need at least an additional six months to complete construction of its permanent facilities. An extension of this STA will allow the Station to continue to serve viewers without any competing harm. Moreover, because the deadline for Licensee to submit its invoices for the repack is not until March 22, 2022, this additional time should have no effect on the Commission’s reimbursement process.

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission should grant Licensee’s request for an extension of its STA.