

Request Tolling of Construction Permit – KATU(TV)

Sinclair Portland Licensee, LLC, licensee of digital television broadcast station KATU(TV), Portland, OR (Facility ID No. 21649) (the “Station”), pursuant to Section 73.3598(b) of the Commission’s rules, respectfully requests a waiver of the Commission’s tolling provisions for the Station’s post-auction construction permit (“CP”) for Channel 24 (See LMS File No. 0000033626, construction period tolled in LMS File No. 0000124566). The Station is currently operating on its post-auction Channel 24 using interim facilities pursuant to special temporary authority (LMS File No. 0000124565). Based on the unusual and unexpected circumstances provided below, the Station respectfully requests tolling of the Station’s CP for an additional period of 60 days until **March 10, 2021**.

Request for Tolling. The Station has made significant progress in constructing its post-transition facilities, including installation of the Station’s permanent antenna and transmitter. However, ongoing RF issues involving the combiner have continued to prevent the Station from operating at full power. Work on the combiner has been delayed because of travel restrictions on technical personnel employed by the manufacturer due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but combiner repairs were eventually scheduled to begin on January 4, 2020. However, due to one or more members of the repair crew having received a positive COVID-19 test, such repairs were rescheduled to begin on January 18, 2021. Consequently, the Station respectfully requests that its CP be tolled for a period of 60 days since it is not able to operate on its permanent post-repack facilities at this time and therefore is not able to cover its CP as planned with a license application. This brief extension of time should enable the completion of work necessary for construction and installation of the Station’s final post-transition facilities. A request for a corresponding extension of the above-referenced special temporary authority is also being filed.

Conclusion. The Station respectfully submits that the instant request will not adversely impact the repack efforts of other stations because the Station will continue to operate on its post-repack channel. Furthermore, the Station respectfully submits that a grant of this tolling request would be in the public interest because it would allow the Station to continue operating without disruption of service to the public.