

Request for Extension Of Special Temporary Authority

Puerto Rico Public Broadcasting Corporation (“PRPBC”), licensee of Station WIPM-DT, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico (“Station”), hereby requests an extension of the Special Temporary Authority to operate at reduced facilities (0000111347) (“STA”).

The Station commenced operations with reduced facilities on January 25, 2019, and is nearly finished with constructing its post-Incentive Auction facilities.

Therefore, pursuant to the flexibility afforded by the FCC to Puerto Rico licensees pursuant to the Public Notice, DA 18-901, dated August 30, 2018, following the damage sustained after Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico in September 2017, PRPBC requests an extension of the STA to operate with reduced facilities. Although, by this request, PRPBC is requesting an additional six months to operate pursuant to the facilities set forth herein, PRPBC expects to commence operations pursuant to the terms of its “repack” construction permit by the end of May 2021.

PRPBC has taken substantive steps to complete the construction of its post-Incentive Auction facility, but because the Station is on the same tower as Station WNJX, and due to the lack of certified tower riggers, these efforts were delayed.¹ PRPBC has been informed that the WNJX tower owner has received funds from the Commission’s repack administrator, and has established a firm schedule for the tower work. Indeed, the WIPM-WNJX tower reinforcement and antenna stack replacement is complete. Moreover, PRPBC expects to take delivery of the Station’s transmitter by the beginning of April, and expects to have it installed by the end of April. Unfortunately, a humidity issue inside the transmission line is delaying the installation of the Station’s antenna. If efforts to dry the transmission line are successful, PRPBC will be able to complete construction pursuant to the terms of the CP Authorization by the end of April. However, there could be some delays if additional work is necessary on the transmission line. And, of course, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there could be additional unanticipated delays.

PRPBC has been working as diligently as possible to complete construction but has faced insurmountable obstacles, including the delayed delivery of construction resources and transmission equipment, which has forced PRPBC to continue operation on its post-Incentive Auction channel with reduced facilities. The devastating effects of the current COVID-19 pandemic have added to the delays.

PRPBC will inform the Commission when construction has been completed on its Post-Incentive Auction facilities.

¹ The reconstruction efforts of the tower for Station WNJX (and Station WIPM) were detailed in the most recent request for tolling filed by Station WNJX’s licensee. See File No. 0000122219.