

Request for Extension of Special Temporary Authority
WPPX-TV – Wilmington, Delaware
Facility ID: 51984

ION Television License, LLC. ("ION"), licensee of television station WPPX-TV, Wilmington, Delaware (FCC Facility ID No. 51984), respectfully submits this request for extension of special temporary authority ("STA") to continue to operate on its post- auction Channel 34 at a reduced power of 131 KW.

ION has been unable to construct the permanent WPPX-TV post-auction facilities due to delays at the tower site owned and operated by ABC, Inc., and CBS/Westinghouse of PA Inc. ("CBS") known as the Philadelphia Joint Venture Tower (the "Tower"). ION had been waiting to receive a final antenna mount design and a construction timeline from CBS, manager of the Tower site.

In July, the Tower structural engineering finally was completed, and the WPPX-TV antenna mount design was approved. ION also received a preliminary construction schedule which would allow for WPPX-TV to complete the installation of its permanent antenna by the end of November 2021. Currently, the tower crew is schedule to arrive in late August to remove and replace the old antennas and transmission line. Once that is complete, the crew will work to modify the tower and install the new tower extensions. Completion of the tower work is currently expected in mid-October, after which time the new antennas can be installed. Installation of the WPPX-TV antenna is tentatively scheduled for the third week of October and antenna testing and final installations will follow shortly thereafter.

While ION is hopeful it will complete construction of the permanent WPPX-TV facilities no later than the end of November, insufficient time remains to complete the extensive reconstruction required at WPPX-TV's post-repack facility by the construction deadline of 7/22/2021 (See FCC LMS File No. 0000130624). Accordingly, ION respectfully requests an extension of STA for WPPX-TV to continue to operate on Channel 34 with an interim antenna at reduced power while the tower modifications are being completed.

Grant of this request for extension of STA serves the public interest by allowing WPPX-TV to remain on the air serving its viewers while it completes construction of its permanent post-repack facility.