

Request for Extension of Special Temporary Authority

WSTQ Licensee, LLC (“Licensee”), licensee of WSTM-TV, Syracuse, NY (Facility ID 21252), hereby requests extension of the Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) that was granted on March 10, 2021 in connection with WSTM-TV’s launch of ATSC 3.0 broadcast service. *See* FCC File No. 0000136483. On March 23, 2021, Licensee commenced ATSC 3.0 operations from WSTM-TV’s facility, which serves as the ATSC 3.0 host for stations in the Syracuse, NY market, and began simulcasting its primary stream in ATSC 1.0 format on WTVH(TV), Syracuse, NY (Facility ID 74151) pursuant to a written hosting agreement with Granite Broadcasting LLC (“Granite”) (*see* File No. 0000136480). Additionally, Licensee began airing its *Comet TV* multicast stream in ATSC 1.0 format from the facilities of WTVH(TV) pursuant to its written hosting agreement with Granite and began airing its *CW* multicast stream in ATSC 1.0 format from the facilities of WSYR-TV, Syracuse, NY (Facility ID 73113) pursuant to a written hosting agreement with Nexstar Media Inc. This request seeks extension of STA to the extent necessary to allow WSTM-TV to continue the hosting arrangements for the broadcast of its multicast streams from WTVH(TV)’s and WSYR-TV’s facilities in ATSC 1.0 format.¹

As explained in Licensee’s original request for STA, WSTM-TV is not able to air both of its multicast streams on WTVH(TV), its primary ATSC 1.0 simulcast host, due to ATSC 1.0 capacity constraints. Furthermore, due to ATSC 3.0 capacity and other constraints attendant with the multi-station and multi-market coordination needed for a successful ATSC 3.0 deployment across the country, it is not feasible for Licensee to simulcast WSTM-TV’s multicast streams in an ATSC 3.0 format without unduly minimizing, if not largely eliminating, the benefits to the public and the participating stations of transitioning to ATSC 3.0. Absent the arrangements with WTVH(TV) and WSYR-TV, all over-the-air viewers would lose access to an ATSC 1.0 signal of WSTM-TV’s multicast streams.

As such, Licensee respectfully requests extension of the STA. Grant of this STA request will serve the public interest, because it would advance the Commission’s ATSC 3.0 policy goals while preserving WSTM-TV’s ability to air its programming streams in the ATSC 1.0 format and ensure access to the programming currently received for nearly all over-the-air viewers. It will also continue to make clear that WSTM-TV is an authorized user of a portion of WTVH(TV)’s and WSYR-TV’s channels and is the party responsible for ensuring compliance with the Communications Act and the Commission’s rules and regulations.

¹ Licensee notes that, in response to the Media Bureau’s request that NextGen licensees formally seek modification or clarification of the Commission’s existing rules prior to seeking renewal of STAs relating to such multicast hosting arrangements, the National Association of Broadcasters filed a Petition for Declaratory Ruling and Petition for Rulemaking in GN Docket No. 16-142 on November 9, 2020.