

Construction Efforts

As noted in the Tolling Waiver Request, the station's main transmitter is installed at the transmitter site. The tower, antenna and transmission line are fabricated and are ready for shipping. Fort Myers Broadcasting Company ("FMBC") was planning to erect its tower in August 2020, but changes to the tower location made in response to a state road expansion plan required additional regulatory approvals. To this end, FMBC hired an environmental consultant which prepared an environmental assessment of the relocated tower site. An antenna structure registration application for the new tower was filed on November 17, 2020. WINK-TV's Consulting Radio Engineer obtained FAA clearance for the new tower on December 11, 2020. An application to amend the local building permit to specify the tower's new location was filed April 6, 2021 and was granted April 29, 2021. The antenna structure registration application for the new tower was granted May 6, 2021 and the proposed WINK-TV tower was assigned antenna structure registration no. 1319288. On May 10, 2021, FMBC applied to modify the WINK-TV construction permit to specify the new tower site. This minor modification application was granted on May 12, 2021.

FMBC's tower contractor mobilized its personnel at the tower site on June 3, 2021. It completed clearing the guy paths for the new tower and began to disassemble the existing WINK-TV tower. Removal of the existing tower is required prior to erection of the new tower, because the new tower's foundation is located under the Eastern guy wires of the existing tower. Presently the foundations and guy anchors for the new tower have been installed. The existing WINK-TV tower is reduced to approximately 200 feet above ground. The project is awaiting the arrival of a crane to remove the remaining portion of the old tower and to begin the erection of the new tower.