

Renewal of License – TV Translator/LPTV Certifications, Discontinued Operations Narrative

HC2 Broadcasting License Inc. (“HC2”) acquired the license for WQDE-LD, Indianapolis, IN, Facility: 184101, pursuant to an assignment application granted as part of the Consent Decree, 32 FCC Rcd 9129 (MB 2017). The acquisition was consummated on 11/9/2017.

The Assignor was: King Forward, Inc. The Lead File Number was: BALDTT-20170713AAG and the Member File Number was: BALDTL-20170713AAN.

In addition to the periods of silence noted in the Adherence to Minimum Operating Schedule Narrative¹, the station went silent on 10/26/2018 and a Silent Special Temporary Authority (“Silent STA”), FCC File Number: 0000063209, was filed 10/31/2018. The Silent STA request was granted 10/31/2018. The specific reason for the silence was that the station was diligently building its new displacement facility as outlined in the granted Displacement Construction Permit, FCC File Number: 0000051594. Additionally, HC2 was operating in a resource-constrained environment due to the 600 MHz Incentive Auction repacking process. Station owners, particularly LPTV station owners which were deemed lower priority, that were seeking to build new broadcast facilities had access to far fewer resources such as tower crews and equipment than they would have had otherwise, a factor that the Commission and the Media Bureau acknowledged.²

The station filed an extension to the Silent STA, FCC File Number: 0000072144, on 4/24/2019 while it continued its efforts to construct its permanent displaced broadcast facility. The specific reason for the Silent STA Extension request stated, “The Applicant hereby submits that its intent is to not extend, delay, or otherwise impact the station’s planned return to air date. All efforts are underway to meet required FCC deadlines, and the station fully expects to be on the air prior to the station’s 312(g) deadline of October 25, 2019. The Licensee has recently added several new team members to facilitate the planning, design and construction of new facilities. Moreover, the Licensee has made additional progress thoroughly preparing site summaries and sketches, completing the engineering design process, and determining the Station’s tower needs such as electricity capability, shelter for its transmitter, and Internet availability. Further, the Station has been in contact with transmitter and antenna manufacturers and is currently collecting quotes from vendors to complete construction.”

¹ See attached exhibit included in the License Renewal application.

² See, e.g., *Incentive Auction Closing and Channel Reassignment Public Notice et al.*, Public Notice, 32 FCC Rcd 2786 (MB 2017) (“Channel Reassignment PN”); *Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions*, Report and Order, 29 FCC Rcd 6597 ¶ 3 (2014).

The station duly filed a Section 312(g) waiver request on 10/24/2019, FCC File Number: 0000072144. The exhibit stated, “As of the date of this filing, all of the engineering, equipment and deliveries necessary to resume operation of the Station had been received and/or completed other than the combiner.” The Section 312(g) waiver request was granted on 3/23/2020.³ In the grant, Commission staff noted, “Consistent with the public interest and prior Bureau actions, we will provide section 312(g) relief to displaced LPTV and TV translator stations that were displaced by the Incentive Auction and pursued new displacement channels.”

The station resumed operations when it filed a License to Cover application on 3/23/2020, FCC File Number: 0000108667. The License to Cover was granted on 4/27/2020. Since that date, the station has been operating pursuant to authorized specifications.

³ See attached Discontinued Operations exhibit included in the License Renewal application.