

Request for Extension of Special Temporary Authority

Deerfield Media (Mobile) Licensee, LLC (“Licensee”), licensee of WJTC(TV), Pensacola, FL (Facility ID 41210), hereby requests further extension of the Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) that was granted on October 14, 2020 (and was most recently extended on March 9, 2022) in connection with WJTC(TV)’s launch of ATSC 3.0 broadcast service. *See* File Nos. 0000121006 and 0000185693. On October 21, 2020, Licensee commenced ATSC 3.0 operations from WJTC(TV)’s facility, which serves as the ATSC 3.0 host for stations in the Mobile, AL-Pensacola (Ft. Walton Beach), FL market, and began simulcasting its primary stream in ATSC 1.0 format on commonly owned WPMI-TV, Mobile, AL (Facility ID 11906) (*see* File No. 0000121002). Additionally, Licensee began airing its *Grit TV* (now affiliated with *Rewind TV*)¹ and *DABL* multicast streams from the facilities of WEAR-TV, Pensacola, FL (Facility ID 71363) pursuant to a written hosting agreement with Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. (“Sinclair”). This request seeks an extension of STA to allow WJTC(TV) to continue the hosting arrangement for the broadcast of its multicast streams from WEAR-TV’s facilities in ATSC 1.0 format.

As explained in Licensee’s original request for STA, WJTC(TV) is not able to air its multicast streams on WPMI-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 WJTC(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 an extension of STA authorizing WJTC(TV) to air its multicast streams using the facilities of WEAR-TV, all over-the-air viewers would lose access to an ATSC 1.0 signal of WJTC(TV)’s multicast streams. Although Licensee has agreed to indemnify Sinclair from and against all liabilities or claims resulting from or arising out of the programming and advertising broadcast on Licensee’s program streams using the facilities of WEAR-TV, Licensee is requesting extension of the STA to make clear that Licensee will remain responsible for the *Rewind TV* and *DABL* streams’ compliance with the Communications Act and the Commission’s rules and regulations.

As such, Licensee respectfully requests an extension of the STA. Grant of this STA extension would serve the public interest because it would advance the Commission’s ATSC 3.0 policy goals while preserving WJTC(TV)’s ability to air each of its programming streams in ATSC 1.0 format to ensure to ensure that WJTC(TV)’s viewers can continue to receive the programming currently available to them. It will also make clear that Licensee is an authorized user of a portion of WEAR-TV’s channel and is the party responsible for ensuring compliance with the Communications Act and the Commission’s rules and regulations.

¹ This programming change is an affiliation change only; the affiliation change does not alter the amount of spectrum bandwidth used by WJTC(TV)’s multicast streams, and if WJTC(TV) were broadcasting in ATSC 1.0 via its own facilities, WJTC(TV) would be able to broadcast its primary and multicast streams. This change does not affect WJTC(TV)’s multicast stream’s PSIP (virtual) channel numbers (which remain associated with WJTC(TV)), and representations made in Licensee’s original STA regarding core programming remain true and correct.