

### **Request for Special Temporary Authority**

GOCOM Media of Illinois, LLC (“GOCOM”), licensee of WRSP-TV, Springfield, Illinois (Facility ID No. 62009) (“WRSP-TV”), hereby requests Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) in connection with WRSP-TV’s deployment as a Next Gen TV broadcast facility in the Champaign & Springfield-Decatur, IL DMA (the “Market”), which is scheduled to commence on December 6, 2022. Specifically, GOCOM requests STA to broadcast WRSP-TV’s non-primary multicast streams using the ATSC 1.0 standard, without simulcast of those streams using the ATSC 3.0 standard, on certain host stations located in the Market. Moreover, GOCOM is requesting this STA to broadcast its non-primary multicast streams in such a manner for purposes of confirming and clarifying that:

- (1) The broadcast ownership rules do not apply to the extent this arrangement would otherwise be in potential violation of those rules; and
- (2) WRSP-TV is the licensee originating the non-primary multicast streams and is considered the responsible party for compliance with obligations under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and the Commission’s rules and regulations in the same manner as an ATSC 1.0 primary simulcast stream is treated under the Commission’s ATSC 3.0 rules and regulations.

For the reasons set forth herein, grant of the instant STA request is in the public interest.

### **BACKGROUND**

As indicated in WRSP-TV’s Next Gen TV license application filed by GOCOM simultaneously herewith, GOCOM intends to: (1) operate WRSP-TV’s facilities using the ATSC 3.0 standard; and (2) simulcast WRSP-TV’s primary stream programming (FOX), in the ATSC 1.0 standard as a guest on WICS(TV), Springfield, Illinois (Facility ID No. 25686) (“WICS”).<sup>1</sup> To avoid the loss of WRSP-TV’s multicast streams its ATSC 1.0 viewers, those multicast streams will be hosted by other television stations (collectively, the “ATSC 1.0 Host Stations”) in the Market as set forth below:

<b><u>Call Sign</u></b>	<b><u>Community of License</u></b>	<b><u>Facility ID No.</u></b>	<b><u>Channel</u></b>	<b><u>Programming</u></b>
WAND	Decatur, IL	70852	20	Antenna TV (VC – 55.3)
WCIX	Springfield, IL	42116	11	TrueCrime Network (VC – 55.2)
WICS	Springfield, IL	25686	15	Fox (VC – 55.1)

As part of this arrangement, GOCOM will provide the ATSC 1.0 Host Stations capacity as ATSC 3.0 guest stations on WRSP-TV’s ATSC 3.0 facilities.

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<sup>1</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 73.3801(f)(2)(i) and (iii).

## DISCUSSION

Grant of the instant STA request is in the public interest as it would ensure that WRSP-TV's viewers receive the station's ATSC 1.0-formatted multicast stations on the ATSC 1.0 Host Stations located in the Market following WRSP-TV's conversion to the ATSC 3.0 standard. Under the current rules, television stations are *not* required to broadcast their multicast channels as part of their conversion to the ATSC 3.0 standard.<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, as the Commission's "existing rules do not address the licensing of multicast streams," a Next Gen TV station "that has converted or is seeking to convert its facility to 3.0 can seek [STA] to air 1.0 multicast streams on a host station."<sup>3</sup> "[T]hese STAs permit a guest multicast stream to be treated as if it originated from the Next Gen TV broadcaster's facility, as opposed to the host station's facility, for purposes of the Commission's rules and the Communications Act."<sup>4</sup> Such STA requests are reviewed by the Commission on a case-by-case basis.<sup>5</sup>

Here, ATSC 1.0 capacity constraints prevent WRSP-TV from broadcasting its non-primary multicast streams on the same host station as its primary ATSC 1.0 programming stream (i.e., WICS). Furthermore, due to ATSC 3.0 capacity and other constraints attendant with the multi-station and multi-market coordination necessary for a successful nationwide ATSC 3.0 deployment, it is not feasible for WRSP-TV's ATSC 3.0 facility to simulcast WRSP-TV's non-primary multicast streams in the ATSC 3.0 standard without unduly minimizing, if not largely eliminating, the benefits to the public and the participating stations converting to the ATSC 3.0 standard.

Effective December 6, 2022, WRSP-TV will serve as the ATSC 3.0 host station for its ATSC 1.0 Host Stations. Simulcasting WRSP-TV's non-primary multicast streams in ATSC 3.0

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<sup>2</sup> *Authorizing Permissive Use of the "Next Generation" Broadcast Television Standard*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 32 FCC Rcd. 9930, 9937-38, ¶¶ 13, n.40 (2017).

<sup>3</sup> *Authorizing Permissive Use of the "Next Generation" Broadcast Television Standard*, Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 36 FCC Rcd 16088 at ¶ 6 (2021) ("*Second FNPRM*").

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* The National Association of Broadcasters ("NAB") has filed a petition for declaratory ruling requesting that the Commission clarify that its "existing rules permit a station transmitting in ATSC 3.0 to partner with one or more other stations that would host the first station's simulcast ATSC 1.0 multicast streams to preserve existing service in the market." Petition for Declaratory Ruling of the National Association of Broadcasters, GN Docket No. 16-142, at 1 (filed Nov. 9, 2020). The NAB's petition currently remains pending. In the *Second FNPRM*, the Commission noted that it "did not address the issue of multicast licensing," and therefore would "maintain the status quo and permit the [Media] Bureau to continue to process STA requests" such as the instant request during the pendency of NAB's petition. *Second FNPRM* at n.47.

<sup>5</sup> *Second FNPRM* at ¶ 6. See, e.g., *Gray Television Licensee, LLC*, LMS File No. 0000190822 (MB rel. Jul. 27, 2022).

would reduce capacity available for WRSP-TV and the ATSC 1.0 Host Stations to offer consumers the improved services that ATSC 3.0 enables. These precluded services and improvements include enhanced video featuring High Dynamic Range, Wide Color Gamut and High Frame Rate, immersive and multiple audio channels using Dolby AC-4, Advanced Emergency Alerting and Information functions as part of a broadcast receiver application, and non-real time interactive data delivery. Each of these services and improvements require a portion of the ATSC 3.0 capacity that would be unavailable if WRSP-TV carried multicast program streams as one of the Market's ATSC 3.0 host stations.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, significant additional engineering work and more equipment would be required to simulcast WRSP-TV's multicast streams in both the ATSC 1.0 and 3.0 formats. Obtaining, installing, and testing that equipment would, at minimum, delay the rollout of ATSC 3.0 in the Market – to the detriment of the Market's viewers.

The proposed broadcast of WRSP-TV's multicast streams on the ATSC 1.0 Host Stations as described herein will serve the public interest by maintaining access to a significant portion of the current over-the-air viewers to WRSP-TV's multicast streams. As detailed in WRSP-TV's Next Gen TV license application filed by GOCOM simultaneously herewith, WICS's service contour (i.e., the proposed ATSC 1.0 Host Station for WRSP-TV's primary stream FOX programming) will cover approximately 99.8% of the predicted population within WRSP-TV's original ATSC 1.0 noise limited service contour, clearly satisfying the requirements of Section 73.3801(c) of the Commission's rules.<sup>7</sup>

Furthermore, as detailed in the Engineering Statement attached hereto, a significant portion of WRSP-TV's service contour overlaps those of its ATSC 1.0 Host Stations – including the entirety of WRSP-TV's community of license, Springfield, Illinois.<sup>8</sup> Each of the multicast ATSC 1.0 Host Stations is also licensed in the Market. Accordingly, the proposed arrangement of ATSC 1.0 Host Stations complies with the ATSC 1.0 simulcast signal coverage requirements.<sup>9</sup> Although the Commission has indicated that the simulcast of multicast streams aired by different host stations are not and should not be required to satisfy the 95% replication standard applicable to primary streams,<sup>10</sup> the attached Engineering Statement provides additional details on the proposed coverage of those multicast streams demonstrating that almost all viewers located within the Market and covered by WRSP-TV's original ATSC 1.0 service contour will continue to receive an over-the-air signal of WRSP-TV's multicast streams' programming.

Absent GOCOM's arrangements with the ATSC 1.0 Host Stations, all of WRSP-TV's current over-the-air viewers would lose access to the station's multicast streams. Additionally,

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<sup>6</sup> GOCOM's WCCU(TV), Urbana, Illinois (Facility ID No. 69544) ("WCCU"), will also operate as an ATSC 3.0 Host Station in the Market.

<sup>7</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 73.3801(c).

<sup>8</sup> See Engineering Statement.

<sup>9</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 73.3801(c). See also Engineering Statement.

<sup>10</sup> Second FNRPM at ¶ 32.

these arrangements will preserve access to WRSP-TV's multicast streams for viewers receiving those streams via Multichannel Video Programming Distributors ("MVPDs"). On September 7, 2022, GOCOM provided the requisite notice to the Market's MVPDs regarding the relocation of WRSP-TV's primary ATSC 1.0 stream as well as its non-primary multicast streams. GOCOM will continue to work with all impacted MVPDs to ensure that they continue to receive a good quality signal of WRSP-TV's non-primary multicast streams – whether over-the-air or via alternative delivery methods. Moreover, WRSP-TV will broadcast public service announcements to inform its viewers of its upcoming ATSC 3.0 conversion and viewers' need to rescan their televisions following the conversion date to maintain over-the-air access to WRSP-TV's program streams in the current format.<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, to alleviate any viewer confusion, WRSP-TV's current multicast channels will retain their existing PSIP major/minor channel numbers.

Consistent with the Commission's proposal in the *Second FNPRM*, GOCOM's use of multiple ATSC 1.0 host stations will enable GOCOM to maintain WRSP-TV's existing service to its viewers without burdening any party.<sup>12</sup> GOCOM acknowledges that the use of multiple ATSC 1.0 host stations does not create any new carriage rights for its multicast streams. Instead, through the instant STA request, GOCOM seeks the Commission's recognition of its proposed multi-host arrangements for WRSP-TV simply to provide needed clarity that: (1) the hosting arrangements do not implicate the broadcast ownership rules, and (2) WRSP-TV, as the originator of each multicast stream at issue, is "responsible for regulatory compliance regarding the multicast stream being aired on a host station."<sup>13</sup> Pursuant to GOCOM's multicast agreements with the licensees of the ATSC 1.0 Host Stations, GOCOM has agreed to indemnify the licensees of the ATSC 1.0 Host Stations from all liabilities or claims resulting from the airing of its multicast streams on their stations. Accordingly, GOCOM is making this instant STA request to make clear that it will remain responsible from a statutory and regulatory perspective for the ATSC 1.0 Host Stations' multicast streams.

Finally, GOCOM notes that WRSP-TV fulfills all of its Children's Television Programming by airing core E/I programming on WRSP-TV's primary stream.<sup>14</sup> WRSP-TV does not, and does not intend to, rely on any programming broadcast on its multicast streams for compliance with the Commission's Children's Television Programming. As such, neither WRSP-TV's compliance with the Commission's Children's Television Programming requirements nor viewers' access to the station's required core programming will be affected by the relocation of WRSP-TV's multicast signals as proposed herein.

## CONCLUSION

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<sup>11</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 73.3801(g).

<sup>12</sup> See *Second FNPRM* at ¶ 11.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> See, e.g., LMS File No. 0000180791.

For the foregoing reasons, GOCOM respectfully requests grant of this STA request so that WRSP-TV's viewers may receive the station's non-primary multicast streams on ATSC 1.0 host stations WCIX and WAND, in the manner described herein.

EXHIBIT A

ENGINEERING STATEMENT

The engineering data contained herein have been prepared on behalf of GOCOM MEDIA OF ILLINOIS, LLC, licensee of full-power digital television station WRSP-TV, Channel 16 in Springfield, Illinois, in support of its request for Special Temporary Authority to operate the station with the ATSC 3.0 transmission standard and transfer its secondary ATSC 1.0 programming streams to stations WAND(TV), Channel 20 in Decatur, Illinois, and WCIX(TV), Channel 11 in Springfield, Illinois. It is important to note that the primary programming stream of WRSP-TV will be transmitted by WICS(TV), Channel 15 in Springfield, and the engineering support for that proposal is contained in the WRSP-TV Application for Modification of License to convert to ATSC 3.0 operation.

Exhibit B is a map upon which the WAND(TV) and WRSP-TV noise-limited service contours are plotted. As shown, the majority of the WRSP-TV service contour overlaps that of WAND(TV). Indeed, the “loss area” population that will be created as a result of the transfer of WRSP-TV’s secondary ATSC 1.0 programming to WAND(TV) is only 16% of the total service population of WRSP-TV, according to the 2020 U.S. Census database. In addition, the gain area served by WAND(TV) that is presently not served by WRSP-TV contains 452,221 people.

In Exhibit C, we have added to the contour map the Champaign-Decatur-Springfield Designated Market Area (DMA), the DMA of WRSP-TV. The number of people in the loss area that reside within that DMA but outside the coverage contour of WAND(TV) is 41,572, or 3.9% of the WRSP-TV service population. We have plotted the 41 dBu Longley-Rice-based signal from WAND(TV) in Exhibit D. We calculate that the number of people in the loss area that

EXHIBIT A

reside within the Champaign-Decatur-Springfield DMA and will not receive a predicted 41 dBu signal from WAND(TV) is only 10,368, or 1.0% of the WRSP-TV service population.

It is also important to note that WAND(TV) places a 48 dBu city-grade service contour over the entirety of the WRSP-TV city of license, Springfield, Illinois, as shown in the attached Exhibit E. This is not entirely unexpected, since WAND(TV) is licensed to a community within the same Designated Market Area (DMA) as WRSP-TV. Thus, the instant application meets the requirements of Section 73.3801(c) of the Commission's Rules.

Exhibit F is a map upon which the WRSP-TV and WCIX(TV) noise-limited service contours are plotted. As shown, a large portion of the WRSP-TV service contour is contained within that of WCIX(TV). According to the 2020 U.S. Census data, the "loss area" population that will be created as a result of the transfer of WRSP-TV's secondary ATSC 1.0 programming to WCIX(TV) amounts to 50% of the total service population of WRSP-TV.

In Exhibit G, we have added to the contour map the Champaign-Decatur-Springfield Designated Market Area (DMA), the DMA of WRSP-TV. It is important to note that the secondary programming stream that will be carried on WCIX(TV) will also be carried on station WCIA(TV), Channel 34 in Champaign, Illinois, which is also in the WRSP-TV DMA. As a result, we have added the noise-limited service contour of WCIA(TV) to the map in Exhibit G. The number of people in the loss area that reside within the DMA but outside the coverage contour of WCIX(TV) is 91,686, or 8.6% of the WRSP-TV service population. When the contour of WCIA(TV) is considered, the number drops to 15,762 people, which represents 1.5% of the WRSP-TV service population.

EXHIBIT A

In Exhibit H, we have plotted the 41 dBu Longley-Rice-based signal from WCIA(TV). We calculate that the number of people in the loss area that reside within the Champaign-Decatur-Springfield DMA and will not receive a predicted 41 dBu signal from WCIA(TV) is only 10,751, or 1.0% of the WRSP-TV service population.

WCIX(TV) places a 43 dBu city-grade service contour over the entirety of the WRSP-TV city of license, Springfield, Illinois, as shown in the attached Exhibit I. This should be expected since WCIX(TV) is licensed to the same community as WRSP-TV and has a transmitter site in close proximity to that of WRSP-TV. Thus, the instant proposal meets the requirements of Section 73.3801(c) of the Commission's Rules.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statements and the attached exhibits, which were prepared by me or under my immediate supervision, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



KEVIN T. FISHER

November 8, 2022



**CONTOUR POPULATION : 2020 U.S. CENSUS DATABASE**

**WRSP-TV : 1,062,967 (485,990 HH)**

**WAND(TV) (Host) : 1,345,091 (613,767 HH)**

**Common Area Population : 892,870 (407,123 HH)**

**WRSP-TV Programming Loss Area Population: 170,097 (16.0%)**

**WRSP-TV Programming Gain Area Population: 452,221**

**SMITH AND FISHER, LLC**

**WAND(TV) CH. 20  
N/L FCC CONTOUR**

**WRSP-TV CH. 16  
N/L FCC CONTOUR**

**WAND(TV)**

**WRSP-TV**

**EXHIBIT B**

**FCC SERVICE CONTOUR COMPARISON  
SECONDARY PROGRAMMING STREAMS  
WRSP-TV, CH. 16 ON WAND(TV), CH. 20  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**

Scale 1:1,500,000

0 10 20 30 mi

Population Analysis : 2020 U.S. Census Database  
WRSP-TV Loss Area Population Within DMA: 41,572 (3.9%)

SMITH AND FISHER, LLC

CHAMPAIGN-DECATUR-SPRINGFIELD DMA

WRSP-TV  
LOSS AREA

WRSP-TV CH. 16  
N/L FCC CONTOUR

WAND(TV) CH. 20  
N/L FCC CONTOUR

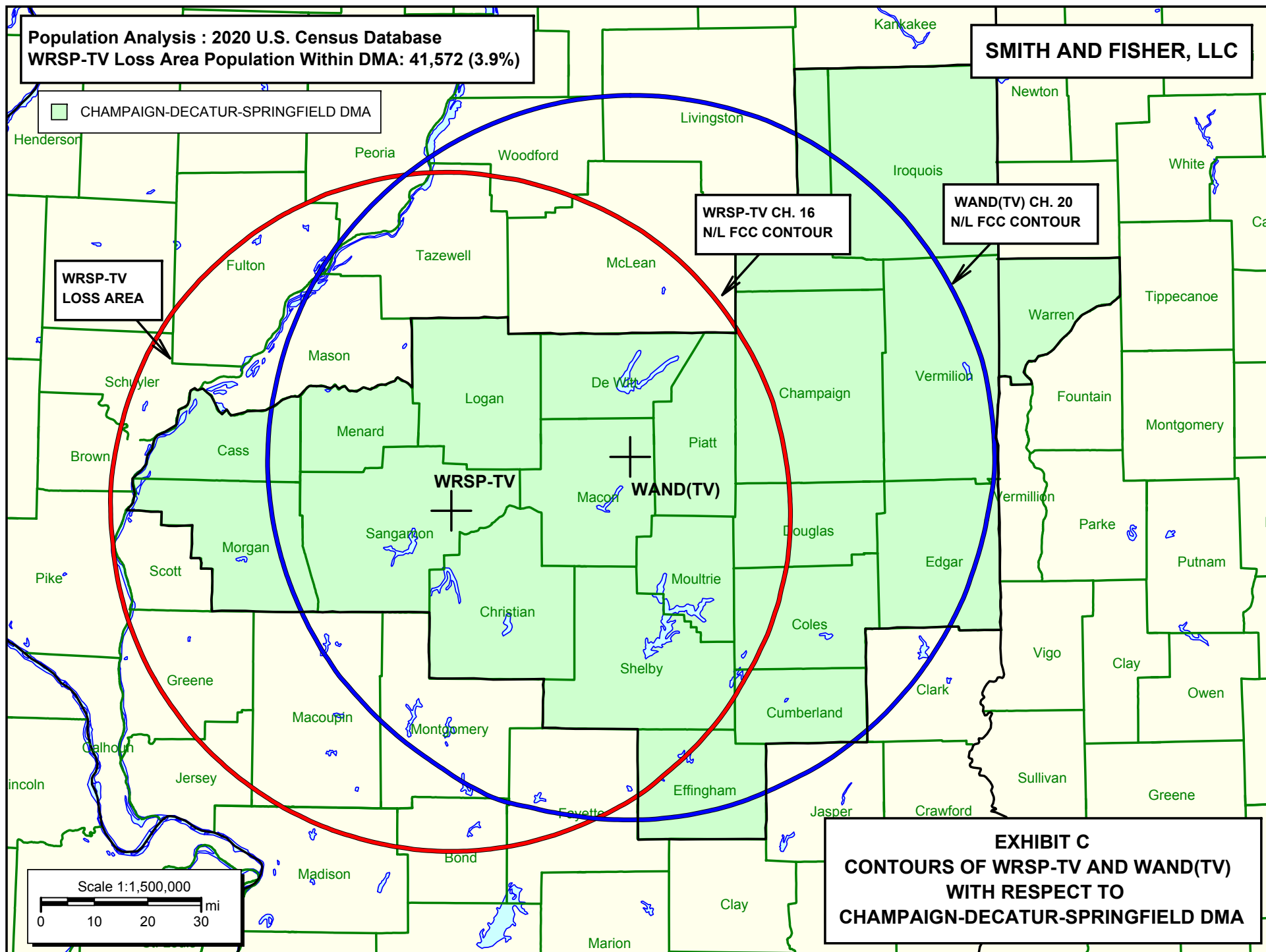
WRSP-TV

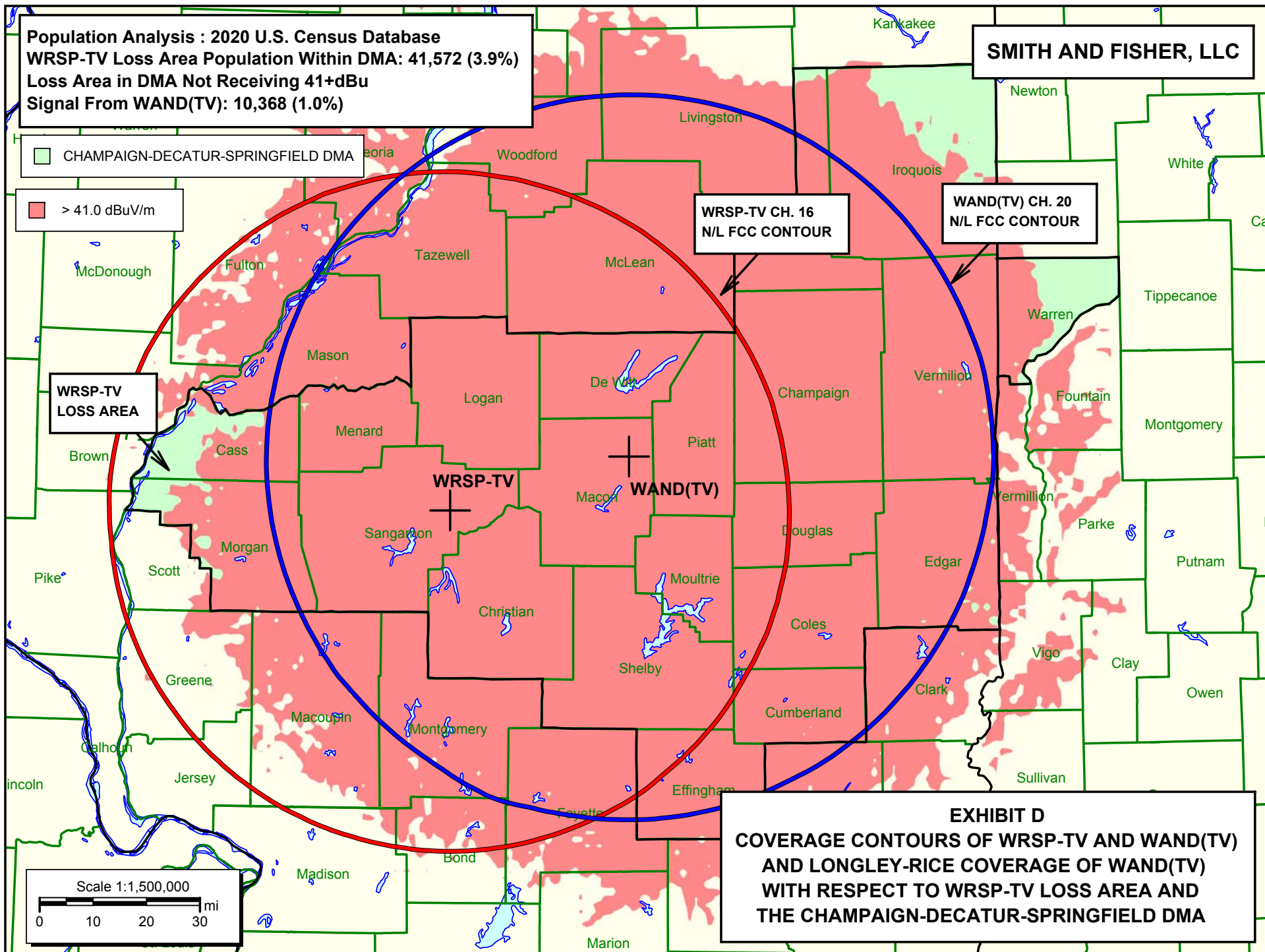
WAND(TV)

Scale 1:1,500,000

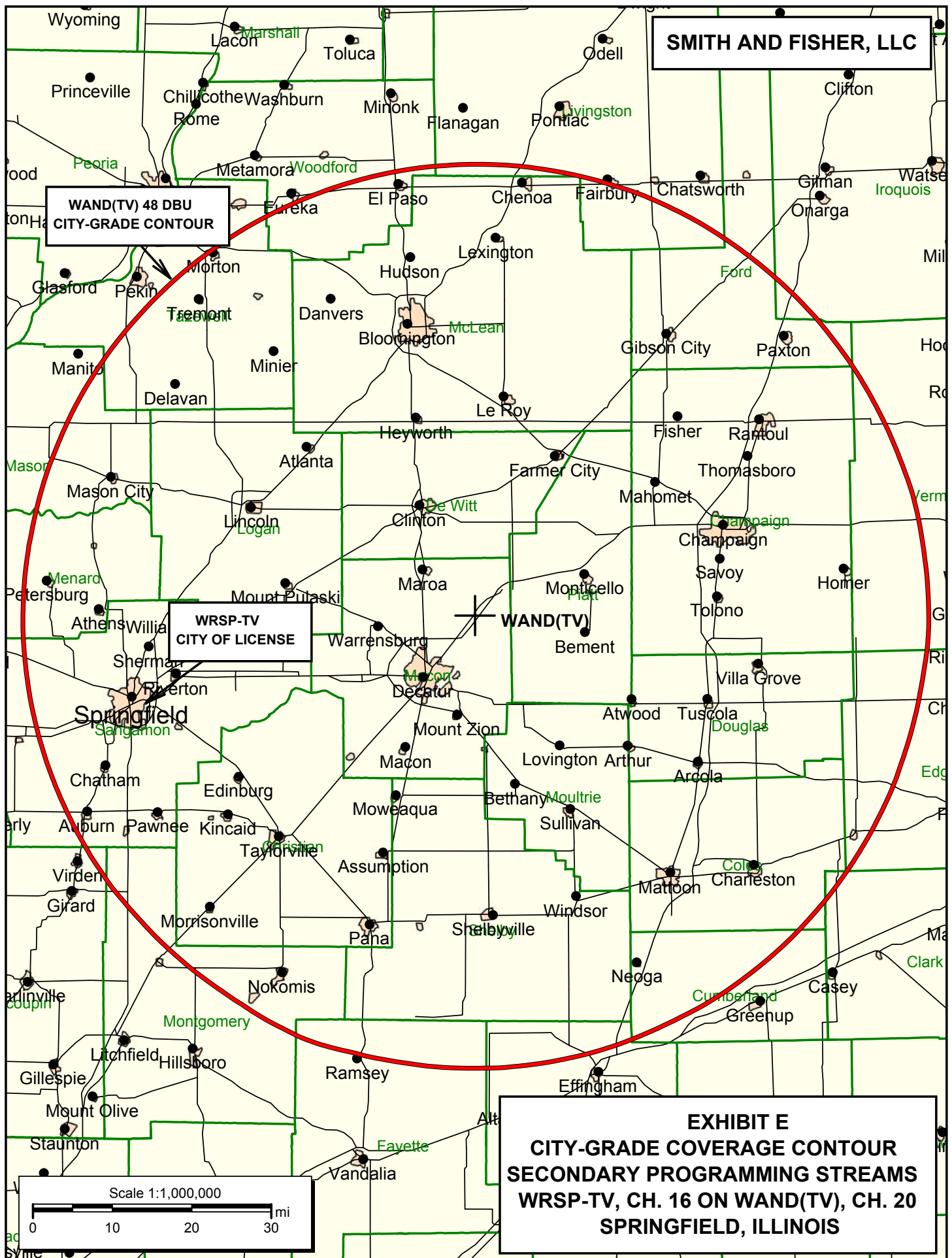
0 10 20 30 mi

EXHIBIT C  
CONTOURS OF WRSP-TV AND WAND(TV)  
WITH RESPECT TO  
CHAMPAIGN-DECATUR-SPRINGFIELD DMA









**SMITH AND FISHER, LLC**

**CONTOUR POPULATION : 2020 U.S. CENSUS DATABASE**  
**WRSP-TV : 1,062,967 (485,990 HH)**  
**WCIX(TV) (Host) : 531,250 (247,708 HH)**  
**Common Area Population : 531,250 (247,708 HH)**  
**WRSP-TV Programming Loss Area Population: 531,717 (50.0%)**  
**WRSP-TV Programming Gain Area Population: 0**

**WRSP-TV CH. 16  
N/L FCC CONTOUR**

**WCIX(TV) CH. 11  
N/L FCC CONTOUR**

**EXHIBIT F**  
**FCC SERVICE CONTOUR COMPARISON**  
**SECONDARY PROGRAMMING STREAMS**  
**WRSP-TV, CH. 16 ON WCIX(TV), CH. 11**  
**SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**

Scale 1:1,200,000

0 10 20 30 mi

Population Analysis : 2020 U.S. Census Database  
WRSP-TV Loss Area Population Within DMA: 91,686 (8.6%)  
DMA Loss Area Population Outside WCIX(TV)  
and WCIA(TV) Contours: 15,762 (1.5%)

SMITH AND FISHER, LLC

CHAMPAIGN-DECATUR-SPRINGFIELD DMA

WRSP-TV CH. 16  
N/L FCC CONTOUR

WCIA(TV) CH. 34  
N/L FCC CONTOUR

WRSP-TV  
LOSS AREA

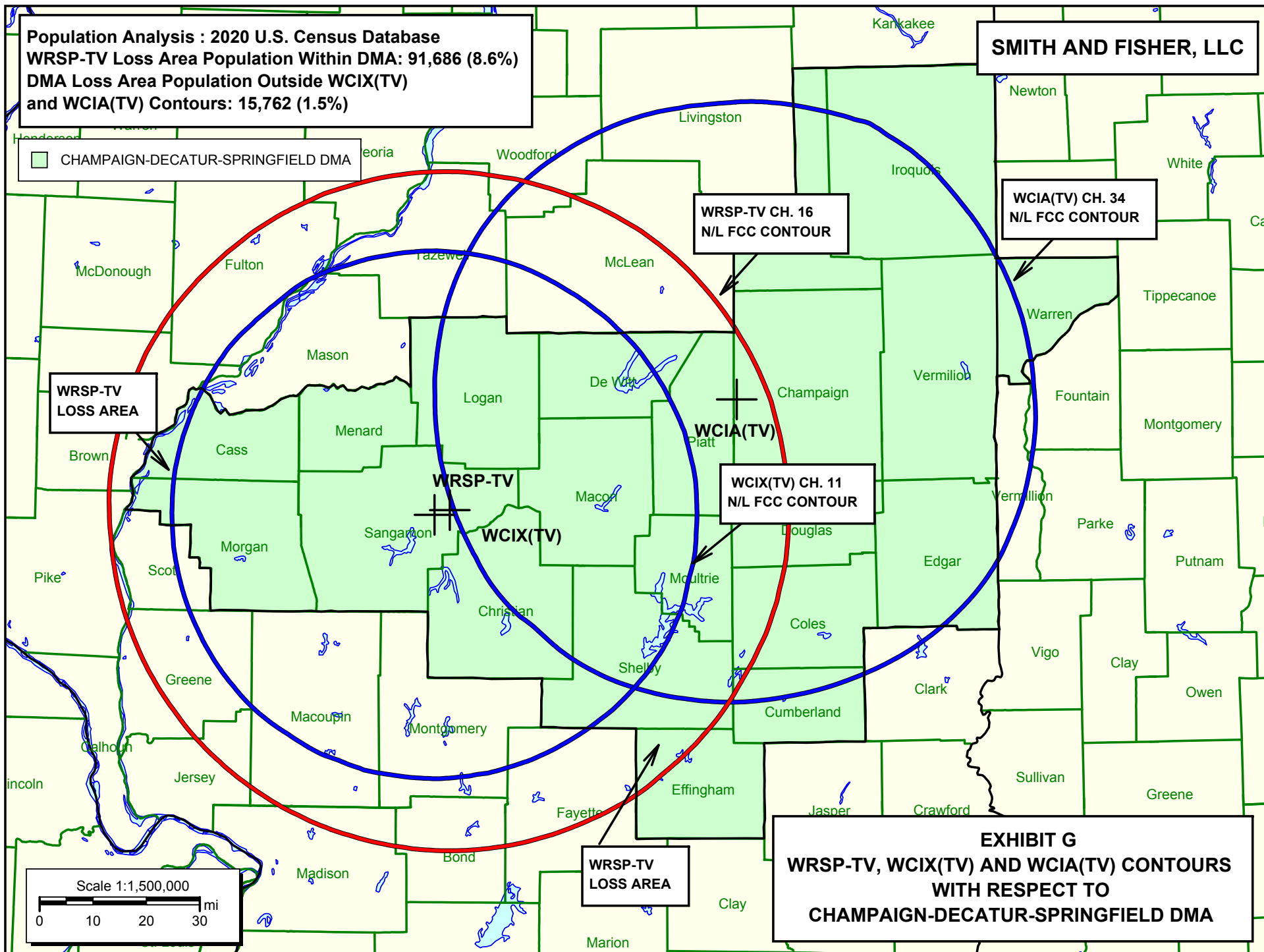
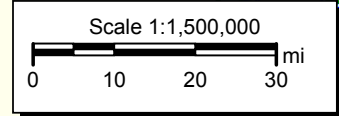
WCIA(TV)

WCIX(TV) CH. 11  
N/L FCC CONTOUR

WRSP-TV  
WCIX(TV)

WRSP-TV  
LOSS AREA

EXHIBIT G  
WRSP-TV, WCIX(TV) AND WCIA(TV) CONTOURS  
WITH RESPECT TO  
CHAMPAIGN-DECATUR-SPRINGFIELD DMA





**Population Analysis : 2020 U.S. Census Database**

**WRSP-TV Loss Area Population Within DMA: 91,686 (8.6%)**

**Loss Area Population Outside WCIX(TV) and WCIA(TV) Contours: 15,762 (1.5%)**

**Loss Area in DMA Not Receiving 36+dBu Signal From WCIX(TV) Or**

**41+dBu Signal From WCIA(TV): 10,751 (1.0%)**

CHAMPAIGN-DECATUR-SPRINGFIELD DMA

> 41.0 dBuV/m

**SMITH AND FISHER, LLC**

WRSP-TV CH. 16  
N/L FCC CONTOUR

WCIA(TV) CH. 34  
N/L FCC CONTOUR

WRSP-TV  
LOSS AREA

WCIA(TV)

WRSP-TV

WCIX(TV)

WCIX(TV) CH. 11  
N/L FCC CONTOUR

**EXHIBIT H**

**COVERAGE CONTOURS OF WRSP-TV , WCIX(TV) AND WCIA(TV)  
AND LONGLEY-RICE COVERAGE OF WCIX(TV) WCIA(TV)  
WITH RESPECT TO WRSP-TV LOSS AREA AND  
THE CHAMPAIGN-DECATUR-SPRINGFIELD DMA**

Scale 1:1,500,000

0 10 20 30 mi

