

Amendment to Tolling Request

On September 2, 2022, Puerto Rico Public Broadcasting Corporation (“PRPBC”), licensee of full-power television Station WIPR-DT, San Juan, Puerto Rico (Facility ID No. 53859) (the “Station”), filed a request (File No. 0000199181), asking that the deadline set forth in the construction permit authorizing the Station to modify its facilities to operate on its post-auction channel (File No. 0000034681) (the “CP Authorization”) be tolled in accordance with Section 73.3598(b) of the Commission’s rules.

As explained therein, circumstances beyond the control of PRPBC, most prominently the devastating effects of Hurricane Maria in September 2017 and the subsequent COVID-19 pandemic, have prevented PRPBC from completing construction of its post-auction facility at the “La Santa Peak” location as set forth in the Station’s CP Authorization. Although PRPBC has been assiduously working towards completion of construction, Hurricane Fiona, which made landfall in Puerto Rico on September 18, 2022, has caused additional damage, thereby providing additional justification for the Commission to grant the pending request for tolling.

Specifically, Hurricane Fiona brought more than thirty inches of rain throughout Puerto Rico. Many roads were damaged, especially in the mountainous area where La Santa Peak is located. As a result, at present, La Santa Peak is inaccessible by vehicle. Accordingly, no equipment can be transported to the site.

PRPBC intends to deliver all components necessary to rebuild the Station’s tower on a 52-foot trailer, as such components are in 20x20 fragments. However, no such delivery can take place until the road to La Santa Peak is either repaired or rebuilt, depending on the final scope of the damage. The road is owned and maintained by the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (“DRNA”) (and not by PRPBC in any way), and the road is used exclusively by DRNA and its invitees associated with DRNA or La Santa Peak business only. Because the timeline for completing such roadwork is exclusively within the control of DRNA, the timeline for completing such roadwork beyond the control of PRPBC.

Based on the recent damage caused by Hurricane Fiona, the Commission is presented with additional justification in support of granting PRPBC’s pending request for the “tolling” of the deadline for construction pursuant to the Station’s CP Authorization. PRPBC will advise the Commission when the road to La Santa Peak has been rebuilt or repaired so that construction pursuant to the Station’s CP Authorization may re-commence.