

Statement in Support of Application

The material presented in the Statement in Support of Application submitted with the June 10, 2022, amendment to the original minor change application (LMS File No. 0000035671) remains relevant to the instant proposal. For ease of reference, the Statement is repeated below with the Effective Radiated Power amended to 45 kW as proposed herein.

This statement is prepared in support of an application for a construction permit for a minor modification of license to increase the authorized Effective Radiated Power (ERP) of WPVI-TV (WPVI) from 34.0 kW to 45 kW.¹ WPVI seeks a construction permit to implement its proposed ERP increase to 45 kW with a new antenna in a further attempt to ameliorate the multitude of well documented reception problems that have been, and continue to be experienced by over-the-air viewers in the Philadelphia Designated Market Area (DMA).²

As explained herein, WPVI seeks the proposed construction permit for an increase in ERP in order to assist in its efforts to overcome long-time VHF Channel 6 reception problems for its viewers. The serious reception problems associated with digital television stations broadcasting on VHF channels are well documented, both before – but especially after, the June 12, 2009 DTV transition date. The most serious of these problems appear to impact digital television stations that are broadcasting on any one of the low-VHF channels 2 to 6.

As has been previously explained in filings with the Commission, following the DTV transition, WPVI was unable to serve many of its former over-the-air analog viewers with a reliable digital signal on channel 6.³ In an attempt to remedy the significant reception problems faced by its viewers, WPVI undertook multiple engineering initiatives, which culminated in the construction and licensing of WPVI's broadcast facility at 34.0 kW ERP ("Licensed Facility"). The Licensed Facility has enabled WPVI to resolve many of the reception problems faced by its viewers, but certain of WPVI's viewers continue to experience difficulties with reception of an over-the-air signal from WPVI. Specifically, although the 34.0 kW ERP signal transmitted by the Licensed Facility is receivable by viewers utilizing indoor antennas, it does not adequately penetrate the masonry construction in large apartment buildings and condominiums in the city of Philadelphia. For

¹ WPVI-TV's current main facility authorization, BLCDDT-20111019ACJ, allows a facility with an ERP of 34.0 kW at a Height Above Average Terrain (HAAT) of 330 meters. WPVI-TV's authorized antenna is a Dielectric Model CBR-O3FMB-6/18H-1 channel 6 omni-directional circularly polarized antenna on the tower bearing registration number 1035474, with its radiation center line located 320.7 meters above ground level and 394.7 meters above mean sea level. The authorized antenna employs an electrical beam-tilt of 1 degree below the horizontal plane.

² The WPVI-TV main facility proposed herein requests the use of a new Dielectric Model TDM-5A6-H, circularly polarized, omnidirectional antenna with an ERP of 45 kW at a HAAT of 342 meters on an adjacent tower bearing registration number 1023152, with its radiation center line located 331.9 meters above ground level and 408.8 meters above mean sea level. The proposed antenna will employ an electrical beam-tilt of 1 degree below the horizontal plane.

³ See, e.g., Comments of The Walt Disney Company, MB Docket No. 12-268, at 9-11 (filed Jan. 25, 2013) (explaining that received a very large volume of calls from viewers that could no longer receive a channel 6 digital signal following the June 2009 cessation of analog broadcasts); CDBS File No. BPCDDT-20090617ADQ (same).

example, while a viewer residing in an apartment located on the side of a building that faces the WPVI transmitter site can receive WPVI's signal using a window-placed antenna, a viewer residing on the opposite side of the building (i.e., the side of the building where the viewer's home does not face the transmitter site) cannot receive a signal because the 34.0 kW ERP signal does not penetrate the building.

WPVI previously obtained special temporary authority to increase its power to 56 kW ERP on an interim basis to evaluate whether the power increase resolves the reception difficulties faced by certain of WPVI's viewers.⁴ This test demonstrated that, by increasing its power, WPVI will be able to resolve most of the remaining reception problems that have plagued WPVI and its viewers since the digital transition. This is because, unlike the signal transmitted by the Licensed Facility, a higher power signal will likely penetrate masonry construction and reach viewers residing in many of the city's large apartment buildings and condominiums.

Given the success of the interim power increase, WPVI is now seeking authority to increase its power by 1.22 dB to 45 kW ERP on a permanent basis.⁵ As explained herein, WPVI-TV anticipates that the enhanced facilities that are proposed herein will enable it to resolve most, if not all, of its remaining reception problems. Accordingly, it is in the public interest to grant of the instant application for a construction permit pursuant to a continued waiver of Section 73.622(f)(7)(ii), to the extent necessary.⁶

⁴ See LMS File No. 0000034890.

⁵ See LMS File No. 0000034890, Legal Statement at note 1 (stating that WPVI desired to increase its power on a permanent basis if the signal evaluation tests performed as anticipated).

⁶ The Media Bureau previously has approved WPVI-TV's applications for construction permits to operate facilities at power levels in excess of the Zone I limit. See WPVI-TV Applications for Construction Permit FCC File Nos. BPCDT-20090617ADQ (granted 3/16/11), BPCDT-20110525ACX (granted 6/13/11) and BMPCDT-20110831ABM (granted 10/5/11). After the facility proposed in the instant application is licensed, WPVI-TV anticipates surrendering the authorization for its currently licensed auxiliary facility (LMS License File No. 0000120214) and, promptly thereafter, intends to file an application for modification of license (FCC Form 2100, Schedule B) to relicense the WPVI-TV main facility (FCC License File No. BLCDT-20111019ACJ) as an auxiliary facility.