

Reduced Power Notification
WXFT-DT, Aurora, IL

WXFT-DT, Facility ID 60539, Aurora, Illinois (“WXFT”), channel shares with WLS-TV, Facility ID No. 73226, Chicago, Illinois (“WLS” and with WXFT, the “Sharing Partners”) pursuant to an agreement entered into in connection with the FCC’s Incentive Auction. As a result of the FCC’s Incentive Auction, WLS – and WXFT as its channel sharing guest – was repacked to channel 22.¹ The Sharing Partners timely ceased operations on channel 44 at the end of Phase 6, and are now broadcasting with the auxiliary facility at Willis Tower authorized by the FCC on October 5, 2021.² The LMS records for WXFT, however, list WXFT as “licensed and silent”. Accordingly, the instant application is being submitted to notify the Federal Communications Commission that WXFT is operating on channel 22 using the auxiliary antenna of the Sharing Partners.³ WXFT anticipates that the Sharing Partners will continue to use this facility until the post-auction main channel 22 has been constructed.

¹ See LMS File No. 0000086908 (construction permit to operate main facility on channel 22). See also LMS File No. 0000213354 (requesting to toll channel 22 main facility construction permit and explaining that WLS channel shares with WXFT, Facility ID No. 60539).

² See LMS File No. 0000160938. See also LMS File No. 0000213354 at note 1 (explaining that WLS channel shares with WXFT, Facility ID No. 60539). On June 20, 2023, the FCC granted WXFT’s application for a license for the auxiliary facility that matches that of WLS, which license was obtained to update LMS records to reflect WXFT as operating on channel 22. See LMS File Nos. 0000216716 and 0000216384.

³ The “Station Status” section of the form requires a date that is not more than 30 days of the date of the application. Accordingly, WXFT has entered May 24, 2023, which is 30 days prior to the date of this application. As is reflected in Commission records, the Sharing Partners have been operating using the Willis Tower channel 22 auxiliary facility since the Fall of 2021. See LMS File No. 0000161777.