

Engineering STA Request for WUNW

The University of North Carolina (“UNC”), licensee of WUNW(TV), Canton, North Carolina (Facility ID No. 83822), seeks special temporary authority to operate site No. 3 of the WUNW’s Distributed Transmission System (DTS) at reduced power. The site is operating at 67% of licensed power or 0.63kW ERP using the licensed antenna system.

On January 25, 2024 it was discovered that the transmitter RF power amplifier at WUNW Site No. 3 near Bakersville, NC could no longer produce sufficient RF output to meet the licensed power requirement. The failing amplifier remains in service, albeit at reduced power. The power amplifier model used at this site has been problematic for UNC and they are being replaced with more reliable units. The replacement amplifier for this site has been ordered but the period of time it will take to receive the new amplifier and install it is expected to exceed 30 days from the date the failure was discovered.

In light of all the foregoing, the licensee requests STA to continue to operate WUNW DTS Site No. 3 at reduced power until the equipment replacement has been effectuated. Grant of this request is in the public interest because it will allow WUNW Site No. 3 to maintain service to the public throughout the repair period (albeit at reduced power). It should be noted that the other five sites in the WUNW distributed transmission system continue to operate at full power. Although UNC currently anticipates that the manufacturer will be able to promptly supply the new power amplifier necessary to restore WUNW Site No. 3 to full power operations, UNC respectfully requests a full 180-day grant of STA in the unlikely event that there are further unanticipated delays.

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