

In the matter of:
Cameron County, Texas

KCCP-LP 0000214582

Special Temporary Authority Extension Request

Cameron County Texas, licensee of KCCP-LP, South Padre Island, Texas has been operating on a Special Temporary Authority (STA) for a temporary facility due to the loss of a site at a commercial location. The STA site is located on county property. Since the filing of the original STA, the County has identified a new tower site on County property, and on July 3, 2023, filed File No. 0000217503 to propose permanent operations for KCCP-LP. This application was granted by the Audio Division on September 9, 2023. Since the grant of the STA on May 12, 2023, the County has made positive steps towards restoring permanent service through the filing of a modification application, which was held up for over two months as a result of international coordination and now has been granted so they can move forward.

With just two months remaining between the construction permit grant and the expiration of the STA, the County believes more time is needed to construct the permanent tower and return KCCP-LP to full licensed operation. The STA was extended on November 9, 2023 with construction expected to be completed on time. However, due to a series of unforeseen circumstances with the awarded tower contractor, the tower provided failed to meet the required building code specifications for the prescribed area of installation. After having the plans reviewed by a third-party engineer hired by the County, the tower contract was deemed unviable and had to be terminated on February 02, 2024.

Understanding the timeline for completion was quickly approaching, Cameron County immediately took the initiative to directly contact the tower manufacturer and engage in dialogue concerning the tower's engineered design requirements. This resulted in having to order an entirely new custom-built tower to fit the design requirements. The order for the new tower was placed on February 15, 2024 with an expected delivery date in late April. Still there was a hold-up with the foundation design due to the area's unique soil conditions. Through it, all the county maintained the services of its third-party engineer to ensure the tower met the required engineering design criteria. On April 5, 2024, the tower manufacturer was able to deliver the desired engineered drawings for the tower foundation. The County has already engaged with a qualified contractor for the installation of the tower. It is not inconceivable to think that the tower installation could be completed within the given time line under ideal conditions, but considering the average precipitation rates for this time of year, and that hurricane season begins on May 1st, we do not want to risk missing the completion deadline due to an unforeseen weather delay or event.

The county has had an unfortunate setback on this project but has been working in good faith and as quickly as possible to construct the new tower before the STA expires. KCCP-LP has been operating continuously to serve the community throughout this process and the chief concern is that if the STA expires before the tower is complete, the station would go silent just as hurricane season begins. For these reasons Cameron County is requesting an extension of the above captioned STA for another six months from May 9, 2024 to facilitate the remediation and final construction of the tower site.