

Request for Extension of Special Temporary Authorization
TV Translator Station K45HJ-D, Caballo, NM (Facility ID 130751)

The Regents of New Mexico State University (NMSU), licensee of television translator station K45HJ, Caballo, New Mexico, respectfully request a six-month extension of the existing Special Temporary Authority for digital operation of K45HJ on DTV channel 45. The FCC granted the original STA for the K45HJ digital operation in File No. BSTA-20090409AAL, and most recently granted an extension in File No. 0000010668. The STA is currently due to expire on November 11, 2016.

NMSU filed a digital flash cut application for K45HJ in File No. BDFCDTL-20090126AGA, but the application was held up for several years due to issues involving international coordination/objection with Mexico. Accordingly, NMSU sought this STA to commence digital translator operation of K45HJ. The STA operation permits the community served by the translator to receive the digital signal from the NMSU's public TV station KRWG-TV. This translator also serves as a feed point for three other KRWG-TV translators, each of now operates digitally. Thus the STA also allows NMSU to utilize a digital network to provide several served communities with a PBS digital signal, and to operate its network in connection with the on-going digital LPTV/translator transition. Without the K45HJ STA, the other three sites would be without digital PBS service due to the use of K45HJ translator as the feed point for those stations.

Most recently, NMSU filed a digital companion channel application for K45HJ, in FCC File No. 0000013447, for use of digital channel 18 for K45HJ's permanent digital transition. The companion channel application (under call sign K18LP-D) was placed on a proposed grant list by the FCC on October 11, 2016 and currently remains pending. Thus, while the digital companion channel permit application is pending before the FCC, and the digital companion channel facilities remain unbuilt, NMSU seeks further extension of the existing STA to allow for continued digital operation of its Caballo area TV translator K45HJ.

For the above reasons, an extension of STA will serve the public interest by allowing NMSU to maintain existing digital operation of K45HJ and its signal delivery service to three additional KRWG-TV digital TV translators, reaching multiple communities in New Mexico with its noncommercial public television service despite the international coordination delays beyond NMSU's control and the on-going processing of the recent companion channel application. As noted, K45HJ rebroadcasts the signal of co-owned noncommercial educational TV station KRWG-TV, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

The STA facilities consist of a type certified 100 watt DTV transmitter, approximately 100 feet of 7/8 Heliac transmission line, and a Scala SL-8 antenna. This configuration creates 1.2 kw ERP and is the same transmission system as planned in the flash cut application. As previously documented to the FCC in connection with this STA, no interference or RF exposure hazard is expected. If any interference is created by this configuration, the licensee of K45HJ will decrease power as necessary to eliminate the interference.

NMSU is a noncommercial educational licensee, and is a governmental entity, and it operates K45HJ on a noncommercial educational basis. The licensee is therefore exempt from FCC filing fee requirements, pursuant to Section 1.1116 of the Commission's Rules, and the facility is exempt from FCC regulatory fees, pursuant to Section 1.1162 of the Rules.