

Public Interest Statement

The School Board of Broward County, Florida (“SBBC”), hereby requests a 180 day special temporary authority (“STA”) for NCE station WBEC-DTV to operate from temporary facilities side mounted on its current tower while it dismantles and replaces its top-mounted main antenna as part of the TV repack process.

On February 2, 2018 SBBC was granted a Legal STA (Application No 0000036051), authorizing it to transition WBEC-TV ahead of schedule, on or before June 1, 2018. In order to comply with this ambitious transition schedule without causing a disruption in WBEC-TV’s educational programming service, WBEC-TV must operate on its new channel from temporary facilities side mounted on its existing tower, while its main top-mounted antenna is dismantled and replaced.¹

WBEC proposes to operate at a reduced power (415 kW) and a reduced height (243.4m AGL) on channel 25, while the station replaces its existing main antenna and transmitter. WBEC-TV anticipates commencing testing of the temporary facilities beginning on May 15, 2018, and expects to cease all transmissions on its pre-transition channel (40) as scheduled, on or before June 1, 2018.

Grant of this STA request will serve the public interest by facilitating an on schedule transition of WBEC-TV to its post auction channel while avoiding disruption of WBEC-TV’s educational and instructional programming during the replacement of WBEC-TV’s main antenna. Additionally, the FCC has previously indicated that such STAs would be looked upon favorably and would be liberally granted in order to facilitate such repack related transitions.²

¹ See also SBBC’s Form 399 Submission (0000028912), indicating that such an STA would be necessary for the transition of WBEC-TV.

² See Post Incentive Auction Broadcast Transition Procedures Public Notice, DA 17-106 at § 46 & n.88 citing *Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions*, Report and Order, 29 FCC Rcd at 6805, para. 582 (2014).