WSB DRT2 Displacement and Interference Considerations

Call Sign: WSB
Station Type: Digital Replacement Translator
Licensee: Georgia Television, LLC
File Number: BLCDT-20101213AGG
Facility ID: 23960
Location: Gainesville, GA
Current Channel: 46
Proposed Channel: 32

Displacement Causes

The reason for displacement is the location of the current channel of the Digital Replacement Translator outside the spectrum that will be allocated to broadcast television following completion of the Spectrum Repack associated with the recent Incentive Auction.

Proposed Facility

The proposed replacement for the facility being displaced will remain at its existing location and operate on Channel 32 at 15 kW ERP using a directional antenna oriented toward 8 degrees. No displacement channel could be identified that would enable operation of the WSB Digital Replacement Translator (DRT) at Gainesville without it causing impermissible interference to any other station. Consequently, to avoid interference to other licensees, the WSB DRT facility will share Channel 32 with the WSB primary transmitter, acting as an on-channel translator. Interference will be caused between the two facilities and with another WSB DRT licensed to Athens, GA, which similarly will share Channel 32, which interference can be managed through synchronization of the several transmitters, if necessary.

Interference Analysis

An interference analysis was conducted, applying the FCC TVStudy program version 2.2.5. The Study Cell Size used was 0.5 km, and the Profile Point Spacing used was 0.1 km. Use of those parameters is requested in any confirming studies. A copy of the results obtained is included among the attachments to the current application.

The study results show no impermissible new Post-Transition interference to any stations of other licensees. The study results do show a high level of interference predicted to be received by the WSB Gainesville DRT – in the range of 38 – 39 percent – mostly originating from the WSB primary transmitter. The effects of that level of interference can be compensated by synchronizing the emissions of the several transmitters to minimize the impact of the interference on the operation of consumer receivers. The applicant, Georgia Television, LLC, accepts the predicted level of interference to its proposed repacked DRT facilities on Channel 32 at Gainesville and also from its Gainesville DRT to its primary transmitter in Atlanta, GA, and to its DRT in Athens, GA.

Contingent Application

To ensure that as many potential channels as possible are available for displaced translator stations, the FCC has stated that it will permit stations to file displacement applications proposing channels that currently are occupied by repacked full-power and Class A stations. *See* Incentive Auction Task Force and Media Bureau Announce Post-Incentive Auction Special Displacement Window, *Public* Notice, DA 18-124 (rel. Feb. 9, 2018) at ¶7 ("*Public* Notice"). WSB accordingly requests waiver of the contingent application rule, 47 C.F.R. §73.3517, as necessary to process and grant the instant application. Studies of Pre-Transition interference to current stations and operations show potential interference to one station: WNGH on Channel 33 in Chatsworth, GA, with predicted new interference of 1.11 percent. Full operation of the proposed WSB DRT displacement facilities therefore will be contingent upon WNGH moving to its new assignment on Channel 4. WSB agrees to the condition that it will not begin transmitting on Channel 32 prior to the discontinuance of operations on Channel 33 by WNGH. *Public Notice* at ¶7. Operation of the proposed WSB-DRT facility may be possible, however, at reduced power or through an interference acceptance agreement with the licensee of WNGH, in which cases any necessary approval by the FCC will be sought. Otherwise, to the extent necessary, therefore, waivers are requested of the provisions of the contingent application rules in §73.3517 and §73.3700(g)(2)(i) and/or any other rules that would be implicated by this application.