



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

July 31, 2018

Ebenezer Broadcasting Group, Inc.
PO Box 13428
San Juan, PR 00908

Francisco R. Montero, Esq.
Fletcher, Heald & Hildreth, PLC
1300 North 17th Street 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22209

Re: Request for Extension of Time to
Construct Post-Auction Channel Facility
WIDP(TV), Guayama, Puerto Rico
Facility ID No. 18410
LMS File No. 0000058596

Dear Licensee,

On July 26, 2018, Ebenezer Broadcasting Group, Inc. (Ebenezer), the licensee of station WIDP(TV), Guayama, Puerto Rico (Station or WIDP), filed the above captioned application seeking a 180-day extension of its construction permit expiration date. For the reasons below, we grant Ebenezer's extension request.

Background. Pursuant to Section 73.3700(b)(5) of the Commission's rules, a station may request a single extension of its construction permit deadline of up to 180 days to complete construction of its post-auction facility.¹ Grant of an extension of the construction permit deadline does not alter the deadline by which a station must cease operating on its pre-auction channel. A station anticipating the need for an extension must submit an extension application using FCC Form 2100, Schedule 337, not less than 90 days before the assigned construction permit deadline (90-day CP extension filing deadline).² The application must demonstrate that the station is unable to complete construction on time due to circumstances that were either unforeseeable or beyond the station's control.³

On January 11, 2018, the Media Bureau, granted Ebenezer's request to modify WIDP's post-auction transition phase deadline to permit the Station to transition to its post-auction channels prior to the start of Phase 1 due to damage to its transmission facilities during Hurricane Maria. The Station was

¹ See 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5). All subsequent requests for additional time to construct are subject to the Commission's tolling provisions, 47 CFR § 73.3598(b).

² 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5)(iv).

³ The *Incentive Auction R&O* provides examples of six circumstances that might justify an 180-day extension of a station's post-auction construction permit: (1) weather related delays; (2) delays in construction due to the unavailability of equipment or a tower crew; (3) tower lease disputes; (4) unusual technical challenges; or (5) delays caused by the need to obtain government approvals, such as land use or zoning approvals, or to observe competitive bidding requirements prior to purchasing equipment or services; and (6) financial hardship with sufficient supporting evidence. See *Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions*, Report and Order, 29 FCC Rcd 6567,6804-05, paras. 581-2 (2014) (*Incentive Auction R&O*); See 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5)(ii) and (iii).

assigned a new testing period start date of July 1, 2018, and is required to cease operation on its pre-auction channel by August 1, 2018.⁴ In its pending application for an extension, Ebenezer states that because of the major damage suffered throughout Puerto Rico as a result of Hurricane Maria and resulting reduced availability of tower riggers and delays in obtaining equipment, Ebenezer has determined that it is unable to complete construction of its final post-auction facility by August 1, 2018. However, Ebenezer states that it will be able to commence operations by that date on the Station's post-auction channel using a temporary facility.⁵

Discussion. Upon review of the facts and circumstances presented, we find Ebenezer's request to extend the construction permit deadline to construct WIDP's post-auction facility meets the requirements for a 180-day extension. Ebenezer has demonstrated that, despite reasonable efforts, the circumstances in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria are such that an extension is needed to complete construction of its post-auction facility. We find grant of the request will have no impact on the overall transition schedule or cause interference to other stations because the Station will cease operation on its pre-auction channel by 11:59 pm on August 1, 2018, and commence operation on its post-auction channel using a temporary facility.⁶ We also find that grant of the request will not have any negative impact on viewers because the Station will commence operation on its post-auction channel within the timeframe set forth under the transition schedule. To the extent some viewers are unable to receive WIDP's signal while it operates from its temporary facility, we note that WIDP has every incentive to ensure viewers are fully informed about the station's transition plan. Based on the unique situation confronted by Ebenezer we also grant waiver of the 90-day CP extension filing deadline. We find waiver is in the public interest and consistent with the Commission's general waiver standard since the Station did not know, despite its best efforts, that it would not be able to complete construction of its post-auction facility until after the 90-day filing deadline.⁷

The above facts considered, Ebenezer Broadcasting Group, Inc.'s, application for extension of construction permit expiration date and a waiver of the 90-day CP extension filing deadline **ARE GRANTED**. The construction permit for WIDP, Guayama, Puerto Rico, **IS EXTENDED** for 180 days **to January 28, 2019**. Grant of this extension does not alter the deadline by which the Station must discontinue operations on its pre-auction channel – 11:59pm local time on August 1, 2018. We also remind Ebenezer that any subsequent requests for extension of its construction permit deadline will be subject to the Commission's tolling provisions.⁸

⁴ *Incentive Auction Task Force and Media Bureau Grant Waiver of the Post-Auction Transition Schedule and Modify the Transition Phase Assignments of Repacked Stations in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands*, Public Notice, 33 FCC Rcd 138 (MB 2018) (*Puerto Rico/USVI Public Notice*),

⁵ See Request for Special Temporary Authority, LMS File No. 0000058598.

⁶ Ebenezer's request for special temporary authority to operate from an interim facility on its post-auction channel was filed on July 26, 2018. See *id.* As of the date of this letter the application is still pending. The application is under active review by Video Division staff. WIDP may only commence operation under this request for special temporary authority upon grant.

⁷ A request for extension of the station's construction permit expiration date was due May 3, 2018. A waiver of the rules is appropriate where the particular facts would make strict compliance inconsistent with the public interest and deviation from the general rule would relieve hardship, promote equity, or produce a more effective implementation of overall policy on an individual basis. See *Northeast Cellular Telephone Co. v. FCC*, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990) and *WAIT Radio v. FCC*, 418 F.2d 1153, 1159 (D.C. Cir. 1969), cert. denied, 409 U.S. 1072 (1972); 47 CFR § 1.3 (waiver for good cause shown).

⁸ See 47 § CFR 73.3598(b).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hossein Hashemzadeh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hossein Hashemzadeh
Deputy Chief, Video Division
Media Bureau