

Extension of Construction Permit Request
WTIN-TV (Fac. ID No. 26681)
Ponce, Puerto Rico

Extension of Construction Permit Request Explanation

Televiscentro of Puerto Rico, LLC, licensee of station WTIN-TV, Ponce, Puerto Rico (Facility ID No. 26681) (the “Station”), pursuant to the FCC’s rules, hereby requests **(1)** the instant Extension of a Construction Permit for 180 days until January 28, 2019 due to extensive damage from Hurricane Maria, and **(2)** waiver of the deadline to request such Extension 90 days before its construction permit expiration date.

The Federal Communication Commission’s (“FCC”) Media Bureau may grant a station that was reassigned in the Broadcast Incentive Auction an extension to construct its facilities for up to 180 days “upon demonstration by the licensee that failure to meet the construction deadline is due to circumstances that are... beyond the licensee’s control.” *See* 47 C.F.R. § 73.3700(b)(5). “Weather-related delays” are among the circumstances enumerated in the FCC’s rules that may justify an extension of the construction deadline for a reassigned station. *See* § 73.3700(b)(5)(ii)(A).

The Station was assigned new parameters as a result of the Broadcast Incentive Auction, and was severely damaged by Hurricane Maria. Because of the hurricane damage, the FCC allowed the Station and other Puerto Rico stations to transition to their post-auction channels on August 1, 2018, before the end of the transition’s Phase 1. The Station has been and continues to diligently work to commence operations on its post-auction channel by this August 1 deadline, but has been unable to complete all necessary construction because of the extent of the modifications needed to repair the damage from the hurricane. As a result, on June 29, 2018, the FCC granted WTIN-TV Special Temporary Authority to transition on August 1, 2018 via interim facilities while its permanent facilities are being constructed (FCC File No. 0000055319).

The Station requests the instant Extension for the maximum period allowed under the FCC’s rules so that it may continue to construct its post-auction facilities; the hurricane damage definitively qualifies as a “weather-related delay,” and the presence and severity of the damage from Hurricane Maria was out of the Station’s control. The Station continues to work diligently to complete construction and is on track to transition to its post-auction channel by the August 1, 2018 deadline via interim facilities as approved. The Station also requests waiver of the 90-day deadline to request such extension pursuant to § 73.3700(b)(5)(iv) because the Station was not aware that it would require an extension by such deadline and the Station was focused on ensuring it had authority to transition via its interim facilities as of its August 1, 2018 deadline. Grant of the Extension and waiver request is in the public interest because it will allow WTIN-TV to continue to construct its permanent post-auction facilities as contemplated by the FCC’s Broadcast Incentive Auction plan and because the Station has already made arrangements to continue broadcasting service to the public in the interim.

Therefore, the Station hereby respectfully requests the instant **(1)** Extension of a Construction Permit for 180 days until January 28, 2019 so that WTIN-TV may continue to construct its permanent post-auction facilities, and **(2)** waiver of the 90-day Extension request deadline.