

Request for Special Temporary Authorization
NCE TV Station WQTO, Ponce, PR (Facility ID 2175)

Sistema Universitario Ana G. Mendez, Inc. (“SUAGM”), licensee of noncommercial educational television Station WQTO, Ponce, Puerto Rico, hereby respectfully requests Special Temporary Authorization (“STA”) to permit the commencement of broadcasting over the completed post-repack facilities of WQTO DTS 1 pending completion of the facilities for DTS 2. Although completion of the new facilities for DTS 2 is expected within the next month, out of an abundance of caution, SUAGM seeks STA for a period of six (6) months.

In connection with the post-incentive auction spectrum repack process, WQTO, Ponce, Puerto Rico, is moving from Channel 25 to Channel 19 (See LMS Construction Permit File No. 0000028318). Pursuant to the Commission-approved Island-wide schedule for repacking Puerto Rico TV stations, the deadline for completion of construction of the repacked facilities was moved to August 1, 2018. However, due to matters beyond SUAGM’s control, it was unable to complete construction by that date, and the Commission granted an extension of the WQTO construction permit through January 28, 2019. See, LMS File No. 0000055390. The Commission also granted a silent STA for WTQO (LMS File No. 58851) through February 15, 2019.

While SUAGM has worked diligently and successfully to return sister NCE station WMTJ, Fajardo, Puerto Rico, to the air, and SUAGM is just now completing the repack facilities of WQTO DTS 1, the repack facilities for DTS 2 are not yet finished. Therefore, SUAGM is not yet in a position to commence program test authority on WQTO and file its license application for the station. However, SUAGM is ready to commence regular broadcast operations on DTS 1, and hereby seeks permission to do so. The technical parameters for WQTO DTS 1 are those specified in the WQTO construction permit.

A grant of STA will serve the public interest by authorizing WQTO’s commencement of public broadcasting operations on DTS 1 while SUAGM takes the necessary steps to complete the station’s post-auction repack process for DTS2, thus permitting the filing of a license application for its new post-auction channel.

SUAGM is a noncommercial educational licensee and it operates WQTO 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.