

Construction Permit Tolling Application – WIDP DT

Ebenezer Broadcasting Group, Inc., licensee of Digital TV Station WIDP DT, Guayama, PR, Facility ID 18410 herein requests, per Section 47 CFR 73.3598(b) of the FCC's rules, tolling of the WIDP DT repack construction permit (File No. 0000025304). Tolling of this CP required due to the damage sustained by the WIDP DT transmitting facilities during Hurricane Maria.

Hurricane Maria devastated the island of Puerto Rico in September 20, 2017; WIDP DT's antenna system and transmitter site were badly damaged. On July 25, 2017, the FCC granted the request to modify the WIDP DT's post-auction transition phase deadline to allow the station to transition to its post-auction channel 34 prior to the start of Phase 1, due to the damage sustained to its transmission facilities during Hurricane Maria. WIDP DT was assigned a testing period start date of July 1, 2018 and required to cease operation on its pre-auction channel by August 1, 2018. WIDP DT has operated on its post-auction channel with temporary facilities under an Engineering STA, File Num. 0000058594 granted on July 31, 2018.

On July 31, 2018, the FCC extended the Station's CP to January 28, 2019. Since then WIDP DT has worked assiduously to construct the Station's post-auction transmitting facilities, but significant work remains to be done. Obtaining the necessary equipment and resources to restore the station's facilities has been challenging, as Hurricane Maria greatly strained the accessibility of rigging services and materials in Puerto Rico and the FCC ordered repacking has strained the capacity of antenna and transmitter suppliers to timely deliver equipment. Section 73.3598(b) of the Commission's rules lists certain causes not under the control of a permittee that provide for the tolling of the period of the construction permit, among which are natural disasters like hurricanes. Thus tolling of the WIDP DT construction permit is hereby requested to allow the station additional time to construct its new transmitting facilities.