

WLII/WSUR License Partnership, G.P., licensee of WSTE-DT (the “Station”), Ponce, Puerto Rico, hereby requests a six month extension of its currently-authorized Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) to operate at reduced power. As documented in its previously-filed Silent STA request (granted October 20, 2017 and extended April 26, 2018), Station operations were initially halted by Hurricane Maria on September 20, 2017. Since grant of the Silent STA and the subsequent grant of the now underlying reduced power STA, set to expire February 15, 2019, the Station has continued to make significant progress toward restoring operations to full power. Toward that end, an application was filed December 4, 2018 to modify certain parameters to one of its key transmission sites -- however, because that application remains pending, an extension of the reduced power STA is necessary.

Background. The Station operates a distributed transmission system (DTS), comprising five sites near Puerto Rico’s population centers. At this point in time, service has been restored to areas covered by four of the five transmission sites. The Monte del Estado site (#5), serving the southwest corner of the island, has yet to be restored to service due to delays in the restoration of its failed microwave ICR feed links.

The Aguas Buenas (#2) site, serving San Juan, the Commonwealth’s capital city, suffered the loss of its transmitter due to water damage. Temporary operations were quickly restored from the nearby site of sister station WLII-DT, Caguas, PR (Ch. 11), using an extra transmitter and the WLII-DT backup antenna, as granted under the initial request for STA.

On December 4, 2018, the Station has filed an application for minor change (File No. 0000063948) to permanently relocate the DTS2 transmitting facility to the WLII-DT transmitter location, where the existing WLII-DT broadband antenna system will be shared.

The Aguada (#3) transmitter is not currently synchronized with the other 3 operating sites. It presently receives WSTE-DT programming off-the-air from a sub-channel of WLII-DT and retransmits it asynchronously. The microwave intercity relay (ICR) system that normally delivers the transport stream and synchronizing signal to the Aguada site also failed during the hurricane and has not yet been restored. The Monte del Estado (#5) site’s ICR originates at the Aguada site and is dependent upon restoration of the inbound link to Aguada for operation.

As previously disclosed in the requests for Silent and reduced power STA, the following table indicates the restoration date of each site:

#1 Ponce 12/15/2017
#2 San Juan* 10/29/2017
#3 Aguada 11/30/2017
#4 Arecibo 11/9/2017
#5 Monte del Estado (not restored)

*Operating via WLII-DT site using WLII-DT auxiliary antenna until pending modification for permanent operations at this site is granted and the facilities are built out.