

Request for Special Temporary Authority
WPXU-TV – Jacksonville, North Carolina
Facility ID: 37971

ION Media Jacksonville, License, Inc. (“ION”), licensee of television station WPXU-TV, Jacksonville, North Carolina (FCC Facility ID No. 37971), requests special temporary authority (“STA”) for WPXU-TV to operate on its pre-auction Channel 34 using a different tower location from its main licensed facility. WPXU-TV has been reassigned Channel 16 in the incentive auction’s repacking process and assigned to Transition Phase 5 of the repack with a Phase Completion Date of 9/6/2019.¹

ION’s tower lease for WPXU-TV will expire at the end of May and will not be available for WPXU-TV’s pre- or post-repack operations after that expiration. ION sought unsuccessfully to negotiate lease terms with the owner of its current tower that would have accommodated its continued operations from that site. However, the negotiations have failed and ION will soon lose access to the tower. Therefore, ION has been left with no reasonable alternative other than to move to a new tower location. Fortunately, ION has secured a tower site that will accommodate WPXU-TV’s operations going forward.

The STA requested hereby will authorize WPXU-TV’s continued operation from the new tower site on its pre-auction channel following the expiration of WPXU-TV’s lease until ION completes construction of WPXU-TV’s post-auction facilities. To continue its pre-repack operations, ION proposes to install a temporary side-mount interim antenna at the new tower site tuned to operate on WPXU-TV’s pre-auction Channel 34 until the main antenna for WPXU-TV’s post-auction operations is installed and made operational during the repack transition period. As demonstrated in the attached engineering exhibits, the requested temporary operation complies with the Commission’s rules and will not cause unacceptable interference to any broadcast television station.

For its post-repack operations, ION has requested FCC authority to relocate WPXU-TV’s transmitter from the currently authorized tower to a new tower site. See FCC LMS File No. 0000072136.

Grant of this STA for interim operations is in the public interest because it is in furtherance of WPXU-TV’s repack transition plan. Indeed, the Commission has specifically contemplated precisely this type of temporary, “interim” operation in furtherance of the overall post-auction transition in order to facilitate continuity of service for viewers and to avoid stations being off-the-air

¹ *Incentive Auction Closing and Channel Reassignment Public Notice: The Broadcast Television Incentive Auction Closes; Reverse Auction and Forward Auction Results Announced; Final Television Band Channel Assignments Announced; Post-Auction Deadlines Announced*, Public Notice, 32 FCC Red 2786 (WTB & MB 2017) (*Closing and Channel Reassignment Public Notice*).

Request for Special Temporary Authority
WPXU-TV – Jacksonville, North Carolina
Facility ID: 37971

for periods of time during construction activities of repacked stations.² Given the exigent circumstances caused by ION's loss of access to its current tower for post-auction operations, the STA will allow WPXU-TV to continue its on-air service to viewers while it completes the transition to its post-auction Chanel 16 by the Phase 5 deadline. Thus, ION respectfully requests prompt processing and grant of this STA request.

² *Incentive Auction Task Force and Media Bureau Adopt a Post-Incentive Auction Transition Scheduling Plan*, Public Notice, 32 FCC Rcd 890 (2018), ¶ 62 (“[I]nterim and auxiliary facilities will be an important part of the transition for broadcasters and we will take action as appropriate to facilitate the use of such facilities and equipment.”).