

WPXA-TV – Rome, Georgia

Facility ID: 51969

Request for Special Temporary Authority (STA)

ION Media Atlanta License, Inc. (“ION”), licensee of television station WPXA-TV, Rome, Georgia (FCC Facility ID No. 51969), requests special temporary authority (“STA”) for WPXA-TV to operate on its pre-auction Channel 31 using an interim antenna. WPXA-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

The proposed STA system will be employed for use as an interim antenna to facilitate construction of WPXA-TV’s repack project transition from its licensed channel to its repack channel. Specifically, WPXA-TV will operate on its current Channel 31 using a side-mount interim antenna until the main antenna for WPXA-TV’s post-auction operations is installed and made operational. As demonstrated in the attached engineering exhibits, the request for temporary operation complies with the Commission’s rules and will authorize WPXA-TV’s continued operations on its pre-auction channel using an interim antenna during the repack transition period.

Grant of this STA for interim operations is in the public interest because it is in furtherance of WPXA-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 for periods of time during construction activities of repacked stations.² Thus, ION respectfully requests prompt processing and grant of this STA request.

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*).

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.”).