

Request for Extension of Post-Auction Construction Permit

Nexstar Broadcasting, Inc., the licensee of WFXQ-CD, Springfield, Massachusetts, FAC ID 2650, respectfully requests an extension of its post-auction construction permit for Channel 21. See LMS File No. 0000027611. WFXQ-CD, which was operating on its pre-auction Channel 28, will go silent on August 2, 2019 since it will be unable to transition to its post-transition Channel 21 by the August 2, 2019 Phase 4 deadline. See LMS File No. 0000079139 (“Silent STA”).

As detailed in the Silent STA, WFXQ-CD will be forced to discontinue operations on the Phase 4 transition date – August 2, 2019 - due to unanticipated antenna rigging issues that prevented installation of the requisite post-transition Channel 21 antenna.

WFXQ-CD is an NBC/CW affiliate. The NBC/CW programming will remain available to viewers in Springfield via co-owned WWLP(TV), Springfield, Massachusetts, FAC ID 6868.

Nexstar is working to resolve the issue and to complete WFXQ-CD’s post-transition channel antenna installation. Consequently, Nexstar seeks an extension of the WFXQ-CD construction permit.

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 73.3700(b)(5), the Media Bureau has the authority to provide an extension of the construction deadline for up to six months if the reassigned station encounters circumstances that include weather delays, construction delays, tower lease disputes, unusual technical challenges and permitting and zoning delays. As disclosed above, Nexstar is subject to unavoidable construction delays. Accordingly, Nexstar respectfully requests an extension of its post-auction construction permit until January 29, 2020.

To the extent necessary, Nexstar also requests a waiver of the Commission’s requirement that requests for extension of post-auction construction deadlines be submitted 90 days prior to the existing construction permit deadline. Nexstar has made every effort to meet the Phase Four transition deadline but only recently determined that the antenna installation would be significantly delayed until after August 2, 2019. Grant of this waiver request and the extension of the CP would be in the public interest as it would allow the orderly transition of the station from its pre-auction channel to its post-auction channel without negatively impacting viewers, other broadcasters or broadband providers.