



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

July 24, 2019

Hearst Stations Inc.
P.O. Box 1800
Raleigh, NC 27602

Re: Request for Extension
Construction Permit
WCVB-TV, Boston, MA
Facility ID No. 65684
LMS File No. 0000072233

Dear Licensee,

On April 30, 2019, Hearst Stations, Inc. (Hearst), the licensee of Station WCVB-TV, Boston, Massachusetts, (WCVB or Station) filed the above captioned application seeking an extension of the Station's construction permit expiration date. For the reasons below, we grant Hearst's application and extend WCVB's construction permit expiration date 180 days to January 29, 2020.

Background. Pursuant to Section 73.3700(b)(5) of the Commission's rules, a station may request a single extension of its construction permit deadline of up to 180 days to complete construction of its post-auction facility.¹ Grant of an extension of the construction permit deadline does not alter the deadline by which a station must cease operating on its pre-auction channel. A station anticipating the need for an extension must submit an extension application using FCC Form 2100, Schedule 337, not less than 90 days before the assigned construction permit deadline.² For Phase 4 stations, such application was due by May 6, 2019. The application must demonstrate that the station is unable to complete construction on time due to circumstances that were either unforeseeable or beyond the station's control.³

WCVB was repacked from channel 20 to channel 33 and assigned to transition Phase 4, which has a phase completion date of August 2, 2019. The Station pledges to cease operation on its pre-auction channel by the August 2, 2019 deadline and operate an auxiliary facility on its post-auction channel while it completes construction of its permanent post-auction facilities.⁴ All repacked stations for Phase 4 were issued a construction permit with an expiration date of August 2, 2019.

¹ See 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5). All subsequent requests for additional time to construct are subject to the Commission's tolling provisions, 47 CFR § 73.3598(b).

² 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5)(iv).

³ The *Incentive Auction R&O* provides examples of six circumstances that might justify an 180-day extension of a station's post-auction construction permit: (1) weather related delays; (2) delays in construction due to the unavailability of equipment or a tower crew; (3) tower lease disputes; (4) unusual technical challenges; or (5) delays caused by the need to obtain government approvals, such as land use or zoning approvals, or to observe competitive bidding requirements prior to purchasing equipment or services; and (6) financial hardship with sufficient supporting evidence. See *Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions*, Report and Order, 29 FCC Rcd 6567,6804-05, paras. 581-2 (2014) (*Incentive Auction R&O*); 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5)(ii) and (iii).

⁴ See LMS File No. 0000068182.

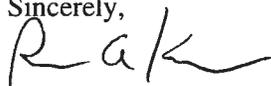
Hearst explains that the tower and transmitter site for WCVB post-transition facility is complex. Specifically, WCVB currently shares an antenna and transmission line with three other television stations—WBZ-TV, WGBX-TV, and WSBK-TV—all of which are transitioning to new channels.⁵ WCVB's tower also hosts three other television and two FM radio stations. Structural reinforcement work must be extensively coordinated. This process has resulted in a need for additional time to complete all construction. The Station will cease operating on its pre-auction channel by the phase completion date and operate from its auxiliary facility while it completes its permanent post-auction channel facilities. Hearst requests an additional 180 days to construct its full, authorized post-auction channel facilities.

Discussion. Upon review of the facts and circumstances presented, we find Hearst's request to extend the construction permit deadline to construct WCVB's post-auction facility meets the requirements for a construction permit extension. Hearst has demonstrated that an extension is needed because of construction delays beyond the station's control resulting from the complexity of the tower site and need to coordinate with multiple other stations. We also find that grant of this extension request is not likely to negatively impact the overall transition schedule. WCVB will cease operations on its pre-auction channel by the Phase 4 deadline and will operate an auxiliary facility on its post-auction channel. To the extent some viewers are unable to receive WCVB's signal while it operates its auxiliary, we believe that Hearst has every incentive to ensure viewers are fully informed about the Station's transition plan.

We remind Hearst that pursuant to the Spectrum Act, the Station is eligible for reimbursement from the TV Broadcast Relocation Fund (Fund) of costs "reasonably incurred . . . in order for the licensee to relocate its television service from one channel to the other."⁶ Additional expenses incurred, for instance, as a result of the grant of changes in the Station's transition plan that are not related to the post-incentive auction channel change, may not be reimbursable from the Fund.

The above facts considered, Hearst Stations, Inc.'s application for extension of construction permit expiration date **IS GRANTED**. The construction permit (LMS File No. 0000034567) for WCVB-TV, Boston, Massachusetts, **IS EXTENDED 180 days to January 29, 2020**. Grant of this extension does not permit WCVB to recommence operation on its pre-auction channel after ceasing operation on its pre-auction channel or August 2, 2019, whichever occurs first. We also remind Hearst that any subsequent requests for extension of its construction permit deadline will be subject to the Commission's tolling provisions.⁷

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Kreisman
Chief, Video Division
Media Bureau

cc (via electronic mail): Stephen Hartzell, Esq.

⁵ WBZ-TV is also transitioning to a new post-auction channel in Phase 4 and has requested an extension based on similar circumstances. See LMS File Nos. 0000072330.

⁶ See *Media Bureau Finalizes Reimbursement Form for Submission to OMB and Adopts Catalog of Expenses*, GN Docket No. 12-268, Public Notice, 30 FCC Rcd 11701, 11701-02 (MB 2015). See also Incentive Auction R&O, 29 FCC Rcd at 6821, para. 622 ("The appropriate scope of 'costs reasonably incurred' necessarily will have to be decided on a case-by-case basis.").

⁷ See 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5)(i) (referencing 47 § CFR 73.3598(b)).