

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), hereby requests Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) for WPXU-TV to operate on its post-auction channel utilizing an interim antenna. WPXU-TV has been reassigned to Channel 16 in the incentive auction’s repacking process and assigned to Transition Phase 5 of the repack with a Phase Completion Date of September 6, 2019.

WPXU-TV has a Construction Permit for its post-repack operations (FCC LMS File No. 0000072136). While WPXU-TV plans to transition to its post-auction channel during Phase 5, ION has experienced significant delays in the tower modifications during construction of the repack project. Thus, insufficient time will remain to complete the extensive reconstruction required at WPXU-TV’s post-repack facility by the Phase 5 deadline of September 6, 2019.

ION has previously requested and received Special Temporary Authority to operate on its pre-auction Channel 34 utilizing a temporary side-mount interim antenna at this tower site (FCC LMS File No. 0000072182). Accordingly, ION hereby seeks STA to operate on its post-auction Channel 16 using the same interim antenna. On its transition date, currently planned for September 6, 2019, WPXU-TV plans to retune the interim antenna to its post-auction channel and will continue to operate on its interim antenna, at a reduced effective radiated power of 5 kW, until the main antenna is installed and made operational. See attached Engineering Exhibit. ION has filed an Extension of a Construction Permit for WPXU-TV’s permanent post-auction facilities (FCC LMS File No. 0000074583).

Due to the significant tower modification delays explained above, ION respectfully seeks STA to transition to its post-auction Channel 16 with an interim antenna during its assigned Phase 5 while the main antenna installation is being completed. Grant of this request for STA serves the public interest by allowing WPXU-TV to timely transition to its post-auction Channel 16 while it completes construction of its primary post-auction facility.