



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

August 16, 2019

Meredith Corporation
1716 Locust Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Re: Request for Extension of
Construction Permit
WGGB-TV, Springfield, MA
Facility ID No. 25682
LMS File No. 0000073509

Dear Licensee,

On May 29, 2019, Meredith Corporation (Meredith), the licensee of Station WGGB-TV, Springfield, Massachusetts (WGGB or Station), filed the above captioned application seeking an extension of the Station's construction permit expiration date and waiver of the 90-day construction permit extension filing deadline. For the reasons below, we grant Meredith's requests and extend WGGB'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 In addition, a waiver of the application filing deadline is appropriate where the particular facts would make strict compliance inconsistent with the public interest and deviation from the general rule would relieve hardship, promote equity, or produce a more effective implementation of overall policy on an individual basis.⁴

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*, GN Docket No. 12-268 et. al., 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 *Northeast Cellular Telephone Co. v. FCC*, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990) and *WAIT Radio v. FCC*, 418 F.2d 1153, 1159 (D.C. Cir. 1969), cert. denied, 409 U.S. 1072 (1972); 47 CFR § 1.3 (waiver for good cause shown).

WGGB was repacked from channel 40 to channel 26 and as the result of a voluntary phase change assigned to transition Phase 4, which had a phase completion date of August 2, 2019. The Station has ceased operation on its pre-auction channel by the August 2, 2019 deadline and is operating an interim facility on its post-auction channel while it completes construction of its permanent post-auction facilities.⁵ All repacked stations for Phase 4 were issued a construction permit with an expiration date of August 2, 2019.

Because delivery of WGGB's main antenna was delayed Meredith was unable to complete construction of WGGB's final post-auction channel facility by August 2, 2019. WGGB has ceased operation on its pre-auction channel and is operating from an interim facility on its post-auction channel. As a result, Meredith requests a 180-day extension to complete construction of its full, authorized post-auction channel facilities. Meredith also requests a waiver of the 90-day construction permit extension filing deadline.

Discussion. Upon review of the facts and circumstances presented, we find Meredith's request to extend the construction permit deadline to construct WGGB's post-auction facility meets the requirements for a construction permit extension. Meredith has demonstrated that an extension is needed because of equipment delivery delays outside of its control. We also find that grant of this extension request is not likely to negatively impact the overall transition schedule. WGGB has ceased operations on its pre-auction channel and is operating from an interim facility on its post-auction channel. To the extent some viewers are unable to receive WGGB's signal while it operates its interim facility, we believe that Meredith has every incentive to ensure viewers are fully informed about the Station's transition plan. Finally, we find that waiver of the 90-day construction permit extension filing deadline is in the public interest and consistent with the Commission's general waiver standard as Meredith was not aware at the filing deadline that an extension of its construction permit would be necessary.⁶

We remind Meredith 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."⁷ Additional expenses incurred, for instance, as a result of the grant of the station's phase change⁸ or other 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, Meredith Corporation's application for extension of construction permit expiration date **IS GRANTED**. The construction permit (LMS File No. 0000024834) for WGGB-TV, Springfield, Massachusetts **IS EXTENDED 180 days to January 29, 2020**. Grant of this extension does not permit WGGB to recommence operation on its pre-auction channel. We also remind Meredith

⁵ See LMS File No. 0000078098.

⁶ See *supra* note 4.

⁷ 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.").

⁸ See LMS File No. 0000064126.

that any subsequent requests for extension of its construction permit deadline will be subject to the Commission's tolling provisions.⁹

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bak', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Barbara A. Kreisman
Chief, Video Division
Media Bureau

cc (via electronic mail): Christina H. Burrow, Esq.

⁹ See 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5)(i) (referencing 47 § CFR 73.3598(b)).