

WTAT-TV – Request for Construction Permit Extension

WTAT Licensee, LLC, licensee of station WTAT-TV, Charleston, SC, FIN 416 (“WTAT”), hereby requests an extension of its construction permit (File No.: 0000034503) (“CP”), due to circumstances beyond its control, so as to allow WTAT to operate on interim facilities while its permanent facilities are completed, and further requests a waiver of the Commission’s rules to the extent necessary. *See* 47 C.F.R. Section 73.3700(b)(5)(iv).¹ WTAT hereby respectfully requests an extension of its CP for a period of 180 days from September 6, 2019 until March 4, 2020.

WTAT is assigned to transition from Channel 24 to Channel 17 in Phase 5 of the repack.

A helicopter to allow for installation of the permanent antenna is scheduled for August 26, 2019. A transmitter crew will be on site on August 29 to install the interim transmitter and interim combiner. The current combiner serves WTAT, WCIV, and WCBD; the new combiner will separate out WTAT and serve only WCIV and WCBD. WTAT must cut to new operation before WCIV can. The projected date for transition to interim facilities is September 3, 2019. WTAT has been delayed in these undertakings by a shortage of helicopter and transmitter crews.

Because of this delay, WTAT will not be able to complete construction of its permanent post-repack facilities by the end of Phase 5 on September 6, 2019. Thus, WTAT respectfully requests an extension of its CP since it will not be able to operate on its permanent post-repack facilities and therefore will not be able to cover its CP while construction is completed on its permanent facilities. WTAT is concurrently filing an STA request as well seeking permission to transition to its post-repack channel while operating on interim facilities. This request will not impact the repack efforts of other stations because, prior to the completion of Phase 5, WTAT will still transition to its post-repack channel. Furthermore, grant of the instant CP extension request would be in the public interest because it would allow WTAT to broadcast on its post-repack channel without disruption to the overall repack.

WTAT will cease operations on its pre-auction facilities and begin broadcasting on its post-auction channel utilizing the above-referenced temporary facilities prior to the end of Phase 5.

¹ This request has been filed fewer than 90 days before WTAT’s current construction deadline. The station only recently learned that construction of its post-repack facilities would be delayed. WTAT thus respectfully requests a waiver of 47 C.F.R. §73.3700(b)(5)(iv).