

WUNE-TV Transition Plan Progress Report

Consistent with the extended deadline for Phase 5 (necessitated by Hurricane Dorian), WUNE-TV in the early morning hours of September 11, 2019 ceased operation on its pre-transition channel and began operating on its post-transition channel, channel 36, utilizing an interim facility. That facility is the licensed auxiliary facility for WUNE-TV (LMS File No. [0000081298](#)).

Consistent with the use of a post-transition interim facility, UNC-TV received a grant of the Construction Permit extension request (LMS File No. [0000034440](#)) for WUNE-TV's Construction Permit (LMS File No. [0000074592](#)) extending the construction deadline to March 4, 2020.

The WUNE-TV transition plan has consistently called for work to be performed in 2 parts. Part 1 included the work necessary for WUNE-TV to begin operating on its post-transition channel utilizing an interim facility. As noted above, that work was successfully completed prior to the September 11, 2019 transition day.

Part 2 of the transition plan has been delayed due to an availability of manpower. The Part 2 work includes the removal of the pre-transition auxiliary transmitter, installation of the post-transition auxiliary transmitter, and the completion of the building infrastructure modifications. No definitive schedule has been provided by UNC-TV's vendor for the completion of the auxiliary transmitter installation. It is believed that this lack of certainty is mostly due to the availability of installation manpower. The installers that would normally be on hand to complete the site installation appear to have been diverted to stations in the subsequent phases so they can attempt to make their transition deadlines.

Part 2 tower work includes (a) the removal of the existing main antenna (which cannot be retuned to WUNE-TV's post-transition channel) and (b) the installation of the permanent post-transition main antenna system in the same location. This work is tentatively scheduled to begin in early November 2019. That installation timeline is subject to change based on the availability of the qualified installation crew and the equipment necessary for the antenna change out.

UNC-TV continues to submit additional budget updates for FCC Form 399. Among other things, these updates will reflect the general contractor costs, costs associated with the electrical challenges, and revised professional services pricing. Further budget adjustments may be necessary as this project continues.

We believe, as of this early October 2019 filing, that the completion of the installation work and commencement of final post-transition operations utilizing the station's main transmit antenna will occur prior to the March 4, 2020, construction permit extension deadline. It is believed the biggest remaining issues are (i) the availability of the necessary skilled manpower required to properly and safely perform the remaining tasks, (ii) the availability of the specialized equipment required to safely perform the installation, and (iii) the timely delivery of additional materials needed to complete the installation. A copy of the project schedule / timeline for the WUNE-TV site is included with this transition report demonstrating that, as of the date of the filing of this Transition Progress Report, the

transition deadline is achievable. Of course, UNC-TV reserves the right to update the project schedule / timeline as warranted to account for changes that may occur during this fluid process.

To reiterate, WUNE-TV is operating on its post-transition channel using its licensed auxiliary facility on an interim basis until the main antenna system installation can be completed. Consistent with UNC-TV's North Carolina state statutory mission to provide noncommercial educational service to the residents of North Carolina, the system currently being used attempts to replicate as much as practically possible the population served by the final, full post-transition facility.

It bears repeating that The University of North Carolina (UNC-TV), Licensee of WUNE-TV, Linville, North Carolina, is a governmental agency entity of the State of North Carolina. As a state entity, it is legally required to comply with certain state requirements, restrictions, and policies regarding construction projects and the purchasing of goods and services. UNC-TV's repack transition project for 11 full-power television stations is no exception, and UNC-TV is required to abide by the applicable construction, contracting, and purchasing requirements, restrictions, and policies for all 11 stations, including WUNE-TV. Significantly, as UNC-TV has previously reported—and bears reiteration here—while UNC-TV's project is considered 11 different projects by the FCC, to the State of North Carolina and its representative agencies it is considered one project. The two state government agencies that are extensively involved in UNC-TV's repack (the State Office of Purchasing and Contracts ["P&C"] and the State Construction Office ["SCO"]) are requiring UNC-TV to bundle together all 11 station repack transitions as one unitary project request to them. While the 11 repack projects (including WUNC-TV) have so far progressed in a manner that is consistent with the Commission's nationwide transition expectations, UNC-TV's position within the State Government of North Carolina should remain an important consideration for the Commission as these projects continue to progress toward completion.

In short, UNC-TV's compound, complicated lodestar for this entire repack enterprise is timely completion of the repack with full compliance of all applicable state and federal regulations while—most importantly—keeping the station operating with as much coverage areas as possible with the least possible negative impact to viewers.