

Request for Further Extension of Post-Auction Construction Permit

Nexstar Broadcasting, Inc., the licensee of KNWA-TV, Rogers, Arkansas, FAC ID 29557, respectfully requests a further extension of its post-auction construction permit for Channel 33. See LMS File No. 0000027617.

As the Media Bureau is aware, KNWA-TV transitioned from its pre-auction Channel 50 facilities and began interim operations on its post-auction Channel 33 facilities at the conclusion of Phase Two - on April 12, 2019. Nexstar sought and received special temporary authority (“STA”) to operate with interim facilities in order to vacate its pre-auction Channel 50. See STA Request LMS File No. 0000069351.

KNWA-TV’s post-transition (final) antenna has not yet been installed due to continued weather and rigging delays. Consequently, Nexstar is concurrently seeking an extension of KNWA-TV’s interim facility operations STA. See STA Request LMS File No. 0000084180, which remains pending.

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 73.3700(b)(5), the Media Bureau has the authority to provide an extension of the construction deadline for up to six months if the reassigned station encounters circumstances that include weather delays, construction delays, tower lease disputes, unusual technical challenges and permitting and zoning delays. As disclosed above, and due to required changes to the post-auction facility, Nexstar is now subject to unavoidable construction delays. Accordingly, Nexstar respectfully requests an extension of its post-auction construction permit until April 6, 2020.

To the extent necessary, Nexstar also requests a waiver of the Commission’s requirement that requests for extension of post-auction construction deadlines be submitted 90 days prior to the existing construction permit deadline. Nexstar has made every effort to meet the Phase Six transition deadline but only recently determined that the antenna installation would be significantly delayed until after October 9, 2019. Grant of this waiver request and the further extension of the CP would be in the public interest as it would allow the orderly transition of the station from its pre-auction channel to its post-auction channel by the transition deadline while still allowing the station to remain on the air while Nexstar completes the KNWA-TV post-auction facility.