

WUNF-TV Transition Plan Progress Report

Consistent with the extended deadline for Phase 5 (necessitated by Hurricane Dorian), WUNF-TV in the early morning hours of September 11, 2019, ceased operation on its pre-transition channel at both DTS sites and began operating on its post-transition channel, channel 20. Post-transition operation at Site #2 is the final post-transition facility, while Site #1 is utilizing an interim facility. That interim facility is the licensed auxiliary facility for WUNF-TV (LMS File No. [0000081299](#)).

Consistent with the use of a post-transition interim facility, UNC-TV received a grant of the Construction Permit extension request (LMS File No. [0000080929](#)) for WUNF-TV's Construction Permit (LMS File No. [0000029742](#)) extending the construction deadline to March 4, 2020.

Site #1

UNC-TV has encountered numerous delays in the construction of WUNF-TV's Site #1. The pre-transition Site #1 was the topic of an unable to construct waiver request (LMS File No. [0000024877](#)). Site accessibility issues required the post-transition Site #1 to be constructed at a different location. The new Site #1 is at a tower site location managed by Vertical Bridge Holdings, LLC (VB). The North Carolina Department of Administration's State Property Office (SPO) is required to execute property lease agreements on behalf of UNC-TV. The SPO has been working on the lease agreement for this site with VB since September 2017. Just prior to the September 11, 2019, transition date a short-term site lease agreement was agreed to. This agreement allows WUNF-TV to operate at the site while a long-term agreement can be completed.

UNC-TV had originally intended for the site to begin its post-transition operations with its full post-transition main facilities. However, the installation of the main antenna system was delayed due to a number of issues. A couple of the more significant issues were the previously reported delays with the tower structural analysis, and the tower crew lacking a sufficient number of qualified skilled personnel to safely perform the tasks required. As a result, WUNF-TV Site #1 needed to transition using an interim facility. As mentioned above, this interim facility is the licensed auxiliary facility for WUNF-TV. Installation of the main antenna system is expected to resume in mid-to-late October 2019. That work is expected to take about 4 weeks to complete.

Construction in the building and on the grounds is nearing completion. Significant modifications to building infrastructure have been required to make the building usable for the purposes required for WUNF-TV and to also have the building meet the required current building code requirements as mandated by the State of North Carolina building code. Some of the major items that required addressing were the replacement of HVAC systems, repair and reconfiguration of the building electrical system, wall repairs to restore required fire ratings, and replacement of the fire alarm system. Sufficient work was completed by the Phase 5 deadline to allow WUNF-TV Site #1 to begin operating on its post-transition channel. Both the main and auxiliary transmitters have been installed and commissioned. While several punch list items

remain to be addressed, the site construction is nearly complete with final inspections by the state and local building inspectors expected to be completed in November 2019.

Finally, Site #1 is now connected to the UNC-TV transmission network infrastructure. Consistent with information provided in prior reports, this task was accomplished using multiple fixed microwave radio links to connect the site to the existing network. There are a few issues that still need to be addressed, but the microwave system is operational. Also, the construction notifications for the microwave radio licenses granted by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau for this system have been submitted.

Site #2

Site #2 is located on tribal land owned by the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians. Site #2 transitioned to its post-transition channel on September 11, 2019. However, the week following the transition, the site went off the air due to an antenna system VSWR problem. UNC-TV submitted a suspension of Operations Notification (LMS File No. [0000082362](#)) as a result of WUNF-TV Site #2 being off the air. On October 3, 2019 repairs were made to the antenna system solving the VSWR problem and allowing WUNF-TV Site #2 to resume normal operations. On October 10, 2019, UNC-TV submitted a Resumption of Normal Operations Application (LMS File No. [0000085618](#)).

UNC-TV will be submitting additional budget updates for FCC Form 399. Among other things, these updates will reflect the general contractor costs, revisions for transmitter installation costs, 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 WUNF-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, WUNF-TV Site #1 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. WUNF-TV Site #2 is operating with its full post-transition facility. Consistent with UNC-TV's North Carolina state statutory mission to provide noncommercial educational service to the residents of North Carolina, the interim system currently being used attempts to replicate as much as practically possible the population served by the proposed post-transition facility. When appropriate, UNC-TV will file, the required license to cover application for its final, full post-transition facility.

It bears repeating that The University of North Carolina (UNC-TV), Licensee of WUNF-TV, Asheville, 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 WUNF-TV. Significantly, as UNC-TV has previously reported 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 WUNF-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.