

WUND-TV Transition Plan Progress Report

Consistent with the transition plan WUND-TV is currently operating on its pre-transition channel at reduced power using its pre-transition main antenna as authorized by a DTV Engineering Special Temporary Authority (LMS no. [0000082363](#)).

UNC-TV plans to timely submit prior to October 21, 2019, a Construction Permit extension request for WUND-TV's repack Construction Permit. UNC-TV also plans to submit a Digital Auxiliary Construction Permit Application for WUND-TV and, if necessary, an STA request for the WUND-TV post-transition interim facility.

The WUND-TV transition plan has consistently called for work to be performed in 2 parts. Part 1 includes the work necessary for WUND-TV to begin operating on its post-transition channel utilizing an interim facility. Part 1 work requires the removal of the pre-transition main transmitter resulting in the current STA reduced power operations on the pre-transition auxiliary transmitter. The removal of the pre-transition main transmitter has been completed. Its removal provides space to allow the installation of the new post-transition main transmitter (replacing the existing main transmitter that can't be returned to WUND-TV's post-transition channel) along with modifications to the building infrastructure necessary to support the operation of the new transmitter. The installation of the new main transmitter is now well underway.

Part 1 tower work, the installation of an interim antenna system is nearly completed. The installation of custom length transmission line sections and commissioning remain to be done. That work is scheduled to be completed by mid-October 2019.

Part 2 of the transition plan will occur after WUND-TV has transitioned to its post-transition channel, channel 29. Part 2 includes the removal of the pre-transition auxiliary transmitter as well as the completion of the building infrastructure modifications. Part 2 tower work includes (a) the removal of the existing main antenna (which cannot be retuned to WUND-TV's post-transition channel) and (b) the installation of the permanent post-transition main antenna system in the same location. The antenna work is tentatively scheduled to begin in March 2020. As of the date of this Transition Progress Report filing, UNC-TV cannot say with certainty whether construction of WUND-TV's full repack facility will be complete within the 180 days of the January 17, 2020, Phase 7 deadline (this 180-day period assumes that the station's repack CP extension request will be granted); while UNC-TV's objective is to have the project completed within 180 days of the Phase 7 deadline, certain elements of the project – including weather – will be beyond UNC-TV's control.

UNC-TV staff has been in contact with the upstream dependent linked set station for WUND-TV (WUND-TV is part of LSS 51). That station is WVBT, Virginia Beach, VA. We're attempting to schedule conversations with a WVBT representative about their planned repack timeline. UNC-TV believes it's in the public interest to transition WUND-TV as early as possible after the testing window opens on October 19, 2019, in order to maintain service to as much of the population as possible. WUND-TV would prefer to transition earlier in the testing window but understands that the transition must be

coordinated, especially with upstream dependent linked set station partners. Hopefully, a mutually agreeable transition date can be set soon.

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 July 2019 filing, that the Phase 7 January 17, 2020, transition deadline remains achievable for WUND-TV, albeit using interim facilities. 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 work, and (iii) the timely delivery of additional materials needed to complete the installation. A copy of the project schedule / timeline for the WUND-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, WUND-TV is planning to begin operating on its post-transition channel using its 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 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 proposed post-transition facility.

It bears repeating that The University of North Carolina (UNC-TV), Licensee of WUND-TV, Edenton, North Carolina, is a governmental agency 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 WUNC-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 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.