



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

October 16, 2019

Television Wisconsin, Inc.
Kevin Ruppert
7025 Raymond Road
Madison, WI 53719

Re: Request for Extension of
Construction Permit
WISC-TV, Madison, WI
Facility ID No. 65143
LMS File No. 0000085817

Dear Licensee,

On October 10, 2019, Television Wisconsin, Inc. (TWI), the licensee of Station WISC-TV, Madison, Wisconsin (WISC or Station), filed the above captioned application seeking an extension of the Station's construction permit expiration date and waiver of the 90-day construction permit extension filing deadline. For the reasons below, we grant TWI's requests and extend WISC's construction permit expiration date 180 days to April 15, 2020.

Background. Pursuant to Section 73.3700(b)(5) of the Commission's rules, a station may request a single extension of its construction permit deadline of up to 180 days to complete construction of its post-auction facility.¹ Grant of an extension of the construction permit deadline does not alter the deadline by which a station must cease operating on its pre-auction channel. A station anticipating the need for an extension must submit an extension application using FCC Form 2100, Schedule 337, not less than 90 days before the assigned construction permit deadline.² For Phase 6 stations, such application was due by July 22, 2019. The application must demonstrate that the station is unable to complete construction on time due to circumstances that were either unforeseeable or beyond the station's control.³ In addition, a waiver of the application filing deadline is appropriate where the particular facts would make strict compliance inconsistent with the public interest and deviation from the general rule would relieve hardship, promote equity, or produce a more effective implementation of overall policy on an individual basis.⁴

¹ See 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5). All subsequent requests for additional time to construct are subject to the Commission's tolling provisions, 47 CFR § 73.3598(b).

² 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5)(iv).

³ The *Incentive Auction R&O* provides examples of six circumstances that might justify an 180-day extension of a station's post-auction construction permit: (1) weather related delays; (2) delays in construction due to the unavailability of equipment or a tower crew; (3) tower lease disputes; (4) unusual technical challenges; or (5) delays caused by the need to obtain government approvals, such as land use or zoning approvals, or to observe competitive bidding requirements prior to purchasing equipment or services; and (6) financial hardship with sufficient supporting evidence. See *Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions*, GN Docket No. 12-268 et. al., Report and Order, 29 FCC Rcd 6567,6804-05, paras. 581-2 (2014) (*Incentive Auction R&O*); 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5)(ii) and (iii).

⁴ See *Northeast Cellular Telephone Co. v. FCC*, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990) and *WAIT Radio v. FCC*, 418 F.2d 1153, 1159 (D.C. Cir. 1969), *cert. denied*, 409 U.S. 1072 (1972); 47 CFR § 1.3 (waiver for good cause shown).

WISC was repacked from channel 50 to channel 11 and assigned to transition Phase 6, which has a phase completion date of October 18, 2019. All repacked stations for Phase 6 were issued a construction permit with an expiration date of October 18, 2019. The Station pledges to cease operation on its pre-auction channel by the phase completion date and operate an interim facility on its post-auction channel while it completes construction of its permanent post-auction facilities.⁵

TWI states that, despite all reasonable efforts, events beyond its control have delayed completion of construction of its post-auction channel facilities. Specifically, TWI maintains that the tower crew, which is working onsite for multiple tenants on the tower, has faced unanticipated delays due to scheduling issues at its previous job site. Therefore, TWI requests a 180-day extension of time. TWI also requests a waiver of the 90-day construction permit extension filing deadline because it did not know for certain it would require an extension at the time the deadline passed.

Discussion. Upon review of the facts and circumstances presented, we find TWI's request to extend the construction permit deadline to construct WISC's post-auction facility meets the requirements for a construction permit extension. TWI has demonstrated that an extension is needed because of construction delays outside of its control. We also find that grant of this extension request is not likely to negatively impact the overall transition schedule. WISC will cease operations on its pre-auction channel by the Phase 6 completion date and will operate an interim facility on its post-auction channel. To the extent some viewers are unable to receive WISC's signal while it operates its interim facility, we believe that TWI has every incentive to ensure viewers are fully informed about the Station's transition plan. Finally, we find that waiver of the 90-day construction permit extension filing deadline is in the public interest and consistent with the Commission's general waiver standard because TWI was unaware at the time an extension request was due that an extension of WISC's construction permit would be needed.⁶

We remind TWI that pursuant to the Spectrum Act, the Station is eligible for reimbursement from the TV Broadcast Relocation Fund (Fund) of costs "reasonably incurred . . . in order for the licensee to relocate its television service from one channel to the other."⁷ Additional expenses incurred, for instance, as a result of the grant of changes in the Station's transition plan that are not related to the post-incentive auction channel change, may not be reimbursable from the Fund.

The above facts considered, Television Wisconsin, Inc.'s application for extension of construction permit expiration date **IS GRANTED**. The construction permit (LMS File No. 0000028220) for WISC-TV, Madison, Wisconsin, **IS EXTENDED 180 days to April 15, 2020**. Grant of this extension does not permit the Station to recommence operation on its pre-auction channel after ceasing operation or after October 18, 2019, whichever occurs first. We also remind TWI that any

⁵ See LMS File No. 0000076440.

⁶ See *supra* note 4.

⁷ 47 U.S.C. § 1452(b)(4)(A)(i). See also *Incentive Auction R&O*, 29 FCC Rcd at 6821, para. 622 ("The appropriate scope of 'costs reasonably incurred' necessarily will have to be decided on a case-by-case basis.").

subsequent requests for extension of its construction permit deadline will be subject to the Commission's tolling provisions.⁸

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara A. Kreisman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Barbara A. Kreisman
Chief, Video Division
Media Bureau

cc (via electronic mail): Jonathan Allen, Esq.

⁸ See 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5)(i) (referencing 47 § CFR 73.3598(b)).