

Request for Extension of Post-Auction Construction Permit

Nexstar Broadcasting, Inc., the licensee of WETM-TV, Elmira, New York, FAC ID 60653, respectfully requests an extension of its post-auction construction permit for Channel 23. See LMS File No. 0000029984. WETM-TV, slated to transition to its post-auction channel 23 in Phase 7 (by/before January 17, 2020), is operating on its pre-auction Channel 18 and is prepared to transition to its post-auction Channel 23, using interim facilities, at the conclusion of Phase Seven - on January 17, 2020.

As the Media Bureau is aware, the WETM-TV post-transition (final) antenna has not yet been installed due to rigging delays. Consequently, Nexstar sought temporary authority to operate with interim facilities in order to vacate its pre-auction Channel 18. See STA Request LMS File No. 0000096234, 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, Nexstar has been subject to unavoidable delays which then create further construction delays. Accordingly, Nexstar respectfully requests an extension of its post-transition construction permit until July 15, 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 Seven transition deadline but only recently determined that the antenna installation would be significantly delayed until after January 17, 2020. Grant of this waiver request and the extension of the CP would be in the public interest as it would allow the station to remain on the air while Nexstar completes the WETM-TV post-transition facility.