

WEKW-TV, Keene, NH

Request for Extension of Construction Permit LMS File No. 0000034357, as Modified by LMS File No. 0000100752

Request for Special Temporary Authority to Remain Silent

New Hampshire Public Broadcasting, licensee of noncommercial educational television station WEKW-TV, Keene, New Hampshire (“WEKW”), respectfully requests an extension of the WEKW repack construction permit (LMS File No. 0000034357, as modified by LMS File No. 0000100752) (“CP”).¹

WEKW has been assigned to transition from Channel 49 to Channel 18 in Phase 8 of the repack, and only recently determined that construction of the facilities specified in the CP cannot be completed until the end of March, at the earliest.² In the interim, WEKW is simultaneously filing for Special Temporary Authority to take the station silent at the time of the Phase 8 March 13, 2020, cut-over deadline in order to cease operations on WEKW’s pre-auction channel. A grant of the instant CP extension request would be in the public interest because it would allow WEKW to transition to its post-repack channel as soon as possible.

Specific circumstances that are resulting in the delay of WEKW’s construction of the facilities specified in the CP include (1) delivery of equipment (*i.e.*, heat exchangers), (2) scheduling of the installation crew (3) challenging private road conditions related to early warm weather and (4) possible challenges related to Spring thawing of access roads.³

Although WEKW is working to complete the station’s channel change by the end of March, out of an abundance of caution, WEKW requests an extension of the CP for a period of 180 days from the Phase 8 March 13, 2020, deadline.

¹ To the extent necessary, WEKW requests a waiver of the Commission’s rules. *See* 47 C.F.R. Section 73.3700(b)(5)(iv).

² WEKW is currently operating on Channel 49 at reduced power pursuant to Special Temporary Authority granted in LMS File No. 0000105422 (granted Feb 11, 2020).

³ Although WEKW has arranged for road access even if tower site road access is otherwise restricted to heavy load traffic due to Spring thawing, full access remains dependent on the weather.