

WSTR-TV – Request for STA to Operate on Interim Facilities

Deerfield Media (Cincinnati) Licensee, LLC, licensee of station WSTR-TV, Cincinnati, OH, FIN 11204 (“WSTR”), hereby requests special temporary authority (“STA”), due to circumstances beyond its control, to continue to operate on interim facilities while its permanent facilities are completed, and further requests a waiver of the Commission’s rules to the extent necessary. WSTR was granted STA on October 22, 2019 (LMS File 0000086549; modified in LMS File 0000099607) to operate with interim facilities and hereby requests extension of such STA to enable it to continue to operate from interim facilities for an additional period of 180 days; i.e., from April 15, 2020 until October 12, 2020.

WSTR was assigned to transition from Channel 33 to Channel 18 in Phase 6 of the repack. WSTR’s construction of its permanent facilities has been delayed due to equipment delivery and crew delays. As Media Bureau staff is aware, the WSTR’s engineers, tower crews and transmitter crews have been unable to travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in further delays.

As of this filing, the station has installed an interim transmitter and a permanent antenna. The post-repack permanent transmitter has yet to be installed; therefore, WSTR plans to continue to use the interim transmitter and the permanent antenna to effectuate the transition to its post-repack channel. Because of the time needed to install the permanent transmitter, WSTR will not be able to fully complete construction of its permanent post-repack facilities by the expiration date of its current STA, which is April 15, 2020, and therefore seeks to continue to operate using the interim facilities.

Thus, WSTR respectfully requests STA to operate on its post-repack channel from interim facilities while construction is completed on its permanent facilities. This request will not impact the repack efforts of other stations because WSTR has transitioned to its post-repack channel. Furthermore, grant of this STA request would be in the public interest because it would allow WSTR to continue to broadcast on its post-repack channel without disruption to the overall repack.