

WNTV(TV) – Request for Extension of Time to Construct
LMS File No. 34598

South Carolina Educational TV Commission (“SCETV”), licensee of noncommercial educational TV station WNTV(TV), Greenville, South Carolina (“WNTV”), hereby requests an extension of time to complete construction of its permanent post-auction facilities. *See* 47 C.F.R. Section 73.3700(b)(5)(iv).¹ WNTV requests an additional 180 days to construct, *i.e.*, until December 30, 2020.

WNTV is assigned to transition from Channel 9 to Channel 8 in Phase 10 of the repack. WNTV transition plan calls for, among other things, replacement of the station’s transmitter and construction of a new tower for the station’s facilities.

A structural study conducted early in the repack process determined that WNTV’s existing tower, built in the 1980s, was inadequate to meet the applicable TIA-222-G building standard. In fact, the engineering firm conducting the study recommended that the tower be decommissioned and torn down. Upon learning this, SCETV decided to look into purchasing land adjacent to the existing tower and to construct a new tower for WNTV’s permanent post-repack facilities. SCETV has been in discussions to purchase the property since summer of 2017, but its efforts ran into numerous internal and external delays, from state government processes to staff turnover at SCETV. SCETV recently resolved all of the outstanding real estate issues but now must complete the design, permitting, and construction of the new tower. SCETV expects to complete these efforts in 2021. WNTV has requested special temporary authority to operate on its post-repack channel from its current facilities until such time as the new tower can be built and the station’s permanent facilities can be constructed.

Because of the delays it has experienced with construction of its new tower, WNTV will not be able to complete buildout of its permanent post-repack facilities by the end of Phase 10 on July 3, 2020. Thus, WNTV respectfully requests that its construction permit for its post-repack facilities (LMS File No. 34598) be extended for 180 days, or until December 30, 2020. The requested extension of time will not impact the repack efforts of other stations because WNTV will cease operations on its pre-auction facilities and begin broadcasting on its post-auction channel prior to the conclusion of Phase 10.

¹ This request has been filed fewer than 90 days before WNTV’s current construction deadline. Because SCETV has been focusing on a smooth repack transition for the numerous other transitioning stations in its noncommercial network as well as responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, it only recently determined that this extension request was necessary. WNTV thus respectfully requests a waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 3700(b)(5)(iv).