

RE: WMDT, Facility ID 16455, CP Extension Request

Marquee Broadcasting, Inc., licensee of WMDT, Salisbury, Maryland, Facility ID 16455 (the "Station"), hereby requests extension of the Station's construction permit (File No. 0000027459) (the "Permit"). Due to circumstances beyond its control, Marquee must implement its initial post-repack operation using interim facilities, and will require additional time to fully implement the facilities specified in the Permit. To the extent necessary, Marquee also requests waiver of the Commission's rules, including section 73.3700(b)(5)(iv). For the reasons set forth herein, Marquee respectfully requests an extension of the Permit for a period of one hundred eighty days, or through October 30, 2020.

Marquee learned recently that its tower contractor would be unable to meet the Station's original transition schedule, as explained more fully in a request for reassignment from transition Phase 8 to Phase 9 filed by licensee on March 3 and granted on March 17. (See File No. 0000106945). In consultation with its tower contractor, Marquee has also determined that, while it will be able to transition to its post-repack channel by the end of Phase 9, as specified in that waiver request, it will be forced to do so using interim facilities. Concurrently with this filing, Marquee has filed a request for special temporary authority specifying the details of those facilities (See File No. 0000108260).

In short, Marquee has determined that WMDT's current main transmission line is not suitable for use on its assigned channel, 29. Due to limited space on the tower, the existing transmission line must be removed before an appropriate transmission line can be installed. In addition, implementing the Permit requires that the top mounted antenna must be replaced, which Marquee has learned from its tower contractor is far more efficiently accomplished through use of a helicopter. While helicopter mounting greatly increases efficiency, it does present additional scheduling difficulties. To allow the Station to transition to Channel 29 as quickly as possible and to continue providing over-the-air service, the physical limitations detailed above dictate the station must transition on interim equipment.

The station will pursue construction of its main facilities as soon as possible after the transition is completed on its interim equipment. Due in part to weather delays experienced by its tower contractor, and the extreme economic and social disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the specific date on which that contractor will be able to return to the site and complete construction of the permanent post-transition facility remains uncertain. The station has installed its main transmitter and all related equipment within the building but remains at the mercy of tower crew availability for installation of its main transmission line and antenna. Accordingly, Marquee hereby requests extension of the CP for a period of one hundred and eighty days.