

WSET-TV – Request for Construction Permit Extension

WSET Licensee LLC, licensee of station WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA, FIN 73988 (“WSET”), hereby requests extension of its construction permit (LMS File No. 0000106070) (“CP”) due to circumstances beyond its control, 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. *See* 47 C.F.R. Section 73.3700(b)(5)(iv).¹ WSET hereby respectfully requests an extension of its CP for 120 days from July 3, 2020 until October 31, 2020.

WSET is assigned to transition from Channel 13 to Channel 7 in Phase 10 of the repack. The station has made significant progress in constructing its post-transition facilities. However, due to scheduling and tower crew delays brought on by the global COVID-19 pandemic, the station’s permanent post-repack antenna has yet to be installed. The helicopter installation of the station’s permanent post-repack antenna is tentatively scheduled for July 18, 2020. Because of the helicopter and crew delays resulting from many states’ stay-at-home orders WSET will not be able to fully complete construction of its permanent post-repack facilities by the end of Phase 10 on July 3, 2020, but WSET plans to transition using an interim antenna on its new channel, Channel 7, by the Phase 10 deadline.

Thus, WSET respectfully requests an extension of its CP since it will not be able to complete the construction and installation of its permanent post-repack antenna prior to the end of Phase 10, and therefore will not be able to cover its CP by the July 3, 2020 Phase 10 deadline. WSET is simultaneously filing a request for an STA to operate on temporary interim facilities while it waits for the helicopter lift so that WSET can complete the construction. This request will not impact the repack efforts of other stations because WSET still plans to will operate on its post-repack channel. Furthermore, grant of the instant CP extension request would be in the public interest because it would allow WSET to continue broadcasting on its post-repack channel without disruption of service to the public.

¹ This request has been filed fewer than 90 days before WSET’s current construction deadline. Due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 outbreak stay-at-home measures, it was not clear until recently that completion its post-repack facilities would be delayed beyond the current deadline. WSET thus respectfully requests a waiver of 47 C.F.R. §73.3700(b)(5)(iv).