

Request for Special Temporary Authority

Nashville License Holdings, LLC (“NLH”), licensee of WNAB(DT), Nashville, Tennessee, hereby requests Special Temporary Authority in connection with WNAB(DT)’s transition to the ATSC 3.0 broadcast transmission standard and related proposal to broadcast WNAB(DT)’s non-primary programming streams (“multicast streams”) in ATSC 1.0 format on WTVF(DT), Nashville, Tennessee. NLH requests that for purposes of enforcement and application of its rules, WNAB(DT) be treated as if it is airing the multicast streams over WTVF(DT) and be the responsible party under the Act and Commission rules and regulations akin to the manner that the Commission treats ATSC 1.0 primary simulcast streams under the Next Gen TV rules.

As indicated in WNAB(DT)’s application for modification of its license (see File No. 0000115868), NLH proposes to (1) commence ATSC 3.0 operations from WNAB(DT)’s current facility and (2) simulcast its primary stream (affiliated with the CW network) in ATSC 1.0 format on WKRN-TV, Nashville, Tennessee. To minimize the loss of over-the-air programming to its current ATSC 1.0 viewers resulting from the station’s transition to ATSC 3.0, NLH proposes to broadcast its existing multicast streams, Stadium, Charge!, and Dabl, using the facilities of WTVF(DT), pursuant to a written hosting agreement with Scripps Broadcasting Holdings, LLC (“Scripps”).

Because of ATSC 1.0 capacity constraints, WNAB(DT) is not able to air its multicast streams on WKRN-TV, its primary ATSC 1.0 simulcast host. Furthermore, due to ATSC 3.0 capacity and other constraints attendant with the multi-station and multi-market coordination needed for a successful ATSC 3.0 deployment across the country, it is not feasible for NLH to simulcast WNAB(DT)’s multicast streams in an ATSC 3.0 format without unduly minimizing, if not largely eliminating, the benefits to the public and the participating stations of transitioning to ATSC 3.0. Simulcasting those streams in ATSC 3.0 would reduce capacity available to NextGen stations for offering consumers the improved services that ATSC 3.0 enables. The types of services and improvements that would be precluded would include enhanced video featuring High Dynamic Range, Wide Color Gamut and High Frame Rate, immersive and multiple audio channels using Dolby AC-4, Advanced Emergency Alerting and Information functions as part of a broadcast receiver application, and non-real time interactive data delivery. Each of these requires a portion of the ATSC 3.0 capacity that would be unavailable were NLH to carry multicast program streams as the ATSC 3.0 lighthouse. Even setting aside these impediments, significant additional engineering work and more equipment would be required to simulcast WNAB(DT)’s multicast streams in ATSC 3.0 and ATSC 1.0 formats. Obtaining, installing and testing that equipment would, at minimum, delay rollout of ATSC 3.0 in the Nashville market.

The hosting arrangement with WTVF(DT) will serve the public interest by enabling most current over-the-air viewers to continue to have access to WNAB(DT)’s multicast streams. Absent the arrangement with WTVF(DT), all over-the-air viewers would lose access to WNAB(DT)’s multicast streams. Additionally, the arrangement will preserve access to those WNAB(DT) multicast streams currently received for most, if not all, viewers who are receiving them via MVPDs, as the station is coordinating or will coordinate as needed with potentially affected MVPDs, and anticipates that they will continue to receive a good quality signal from WNAB(DT) over-the-air or via alternative delivery methods, such as direct fiber feed.

Although NLH has agreed to indemnify Scripps from and against all liabilities or claims resulting from or arising out of the programming and advertising broadcast on NLH’s program streams using WTVF(DT)’s facilities, NLH is requesting the instant authorization to make clear that NLH will remain responsible for these streams’ compliance with the Communications Act and the Commission’s rules and regulations. To alleviate any viewer confusion, the PSIP (virtual) channels for each of WNAB(DT)’s program streams will remain unchanged and be identified as being associated with WNAB(DT). We also note that NLH does not currently, and does not intend to, rely on its multicast streams for compliance with the Commission’s Children’s Television Programming requirements, as WNAB(DT) averages at least three hours per week of core programming on its primary stream. As such, WNAB(DT)’s compliance with the Commission’s Children’s Television Programming requirements nor viewers’ access to the station’s required core programming will be affected by the proposed changes. NLH provided notice to the

relevant MVPDs of its proposed multicast ATSC 1.0 signal relocations when it provided the requisite 120-day notice regarding relocation of WNAB(DT)'s primary stream ATSC 1.0 signal. NLH is also airing on WNAB(DT), and has posted to its website, consumer notices regarding the station's transition to the ATSC 3.0 standard and the need for over-the-air viewers to rescan on June 16th.

Grant of this STA request will serve the public interest, as it will advance the Commission's ATSC 3.0 policy goals while preserving WNAB(DT)'s ability to air each of its programming streams in the ATSC 1.0 format to ensure that most of WNAB(DT)'s current viewers can continue to receive the programming currently available to them. It will also make clear that WNAB(DT) is an authorized user of a portion of WTVF(DT)'s channel and is the party responsible for ensuring compliance with the Communications Act and the Commission's rules and regulations.