

WABM – Request for Extension of STA to Operate on Interim Facilities

Birmingham (WABM-TV) Licensee, Inc., licensee of station WABM(TV), Birmingham, AL, FIN 16820 (“WABM”), hereby requests a 60-day extension of its special temporary authority (LMS File No. 0000080641, as extended in File No. 0000106641), 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. WABM hereby respectfully requests permission to operate from interim facilities for a period of 60 days from September 7, 2020 until November 6, 2020.

WABM was assigned to transition from Channel 36 to Channel 20 in Phase 5 of the repack, but was granted an extension of its post-auction construction permit (LMS File No. 0000034382, as extended in File No. 0000080558 and tolled in File No. 0000106638) and is separately requesting a further extension due to circumstances beyond its control.

The Station has made significant progress in constructing its post-transition facilities, including installation of the antenna and partial installation of the Station’s full power post-transition transmitter. The transmitter installation crew is still working on scheduling a date to complete installation of the Station’s permanent transmitter. Due to the current unavailability of a transmitter crew to complete the transmitter installation, the Station does not anticipate that installation of the post-transition transmitter will be completed until after September 7, 2020.

WABM respectfully requests an STA extension to continue 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, WABM will continue to operate on its post-repack channel. Furthermore, grant of the instant STA request would be in the public interest because it would allow WABM to continue to broadcast on its post-repack channel without disruption to the overall repack.