

Request for Extension Of Special Temporary Authority

Puerto Rico Public Broadcasting Corporation (“PRPBC”), licensee of Station WIPR-DT, San Juan, Puerto Rico (“Station”), hereby requests an extension of the Special Temporary Authority to operate at reduced facilities (0000111346) (“STA”).

As the FCC is aware, Hurricane Maria destroyed the tower site specified in the Station’s post-Incentive Auction construction permit authorization. The Station commenced operations with reduced facilities in August 2018, and is in the process of constructing its post-Incentive Auction facilities. In early 2019, PRPBC was informed by the tower owner of its permanent post-Incentive Auction facility that it would not be reconstructing the shared tower. As such, PRPBC has taken steps to request design and construction proposals to replace the permanent tower for the Station. PRPBC must also obtain local zoning approval for the new tower, which has yet to be granted. Finally, PRPBC has yet to receive all of the equipment necessary for its Post-Transition facility, and must coordinate the reconstruction effort with the reconstruction of its permanent tower.

Therefore, pursuant to the flexibility afforded by the FCC to Puerto Rico licensees pursuant to the Public Notice, DA 18-901, dated August 30, 2018, which has provided additional time for television stations that have been silent since Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico in September 2017, PRPBC requests an extension of the STA to operate with reduced facilities for an additional six months. PRPBC is working as diligently as possible to resume operations with its post-Incentive Auction facility, but has faced insurmountable obstacles and delays, including the delayed decision by its tower owner not to reconstruct the shared tower, along with the delay in the delivery of construction resources and transmission equipment, which has forced PRPBC to continue operation on its post-Incentive Auction channel with reduced facilities. The devastating effects of the current COVID-19 pandemic has added to the delays.