

### **WECN-DT Minimum Operating Schedule**

During the last license renewal period, Encuentro Christian Network (“Licensee”), licensee of WECN-DT, Naranjito, PR (Facility ID No. 19561) (“WECN”), cannot certify that WECN was not silent for more than 30 days. On two occasion during the previous license period, WECN was forced to go silent for a period of more than 30 days. On September 30, 2014, WECN sought an STA for silent authority based on extreme financial hardship. *See* File No. BLSTA-20140930ADK. The STA was dismissed by the Commission after the station went back on air on September 17, 2015. *See* File No. 0000004651. WECN again sought a silent STA on September 10, 2018. *See* File No. 0000059508. As explained in the justification for that granted STA, the second silent period started in September 2017 due to the catastrophic effects of Hurricane Maria. Based on staff guidance, Licensee indicated a silent date of September 10, 2018; however, the actual silent date was September 20, 2017. The STA request acknowledges that WECN would be off air for more than a year if the Commission granted the STA. Nonetheless, based on the extraordinary circumstances in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, the Commission granted WECN’s request. *See id.*; *see also* File No. 0000068288 (extending WECN STA). The station resumed operations pursuant to an engineering STA on August 1, 2019. *See* File No. 0000080378. The engineering STA authorized WECN to go on air using interim facilities at reduced power. *See* File No. 0000078762.

As the Commission knows, Puerto Rico has experienced tremendous economic and environmental hardship during the previous license term. Licensee appreciates its obligation to keep WECN on air and understands that providing its broadcast service is how WECN fulfills its public interest mandate to its community. That said, given the extraordinary circumstances faced by Puerto Rico broadcasters during the previous license term, Licensee believes WECN has fulfilled its public interest mandate to the best of its abilities. Licensee has fully complied with the Commission’s rules by seeking special temporary authority to silent go when necessary. Licensee also promptly notified the Commission when WECN resumed operation. Most importantly, Licensee has endeavored to limit the period of time during which WECN is off air. In the wake of a significant natural disaster, WECN was able to begin serving its community again more quickly than it otherwise would have because Licensee found interim facilities and sought permission from the Commission to operate despite the difficulties in bringing WECN back on air on its primary facilities after Hurricane Maria. Licensee remains committed to ensuring WECN fully serves its community; therefore, renewal of WECN’s license is appropriate.