

REQUEST FOR FURTHER EXTENSION OF SILENT STA AND LICENSE

The Southern Oregon Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists (“SOC”), licensee of low power television station KEVE-LD, Vancouver, Washington (Facility ID #67878) (the “Station”), hereby requests a further extension of the license for the Station while it remains silent. Additional time is needed to complete the modifications occasioned by the television repack and to restore the station to service.

The Station has been silent since April 12, 2019, when it was required to vacate its channel in the course of the television repack. The subsequent history of SOC’s difficulties in completing the construction of the Station’s post-repack facilities are recounted in SOC’s April 10, 2020, request to the extend the license notwithstanding the 12 months of silence, and in the April 21, 2020, letter from the Chief of the Video Division granting the extension request. The April 21 grant letter extended the license for a period of 180 days, which period expires imminently. Since April 21, SOC has continued to experience unusual circumstances beyond its control that have made it impossible to complete the modifications to the Station.

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to hamper normal life in the Portland metropolitan area where both the Station’s community of license and SOC’s offices are located. The tri-county area is still in Phase 1 re-opening, which requires the personnel of most enterprises to work remotely. SOC’s office has been closed during this entire period, resulting in a loss of staff cohesion and productivity. It has also dramatically reduced the availability of personnel and equipment needed to undertake the physical tasks involved in implementing the Station modifications.

The wildfires in the region have had a serious impact on the community in a number of ways. Visibility and air quality have often been impaired by smoke and haze. This has presented a health hazard for working outdoors, where most of the work on the Station must be done.

The Portland community became an evacuation site for residents fleeing the fires in Clakamas County. Contributing to the social welfare of the community is a high priority for SOC. Consequently, SOC’s staff and resources have been concentrated on addressing the humanitarian needs of people displaced by the wildfires.

During this six-month period since the Station’s license was last extended, the Portland area has experienced over 120 days of civil unrest related to protests about racial justice, adding to the air of distress in the community. These events have also demanded time and attention from SOC staff to respond to these events.

SOC operates with a small staff with obligations to fulfill multiple missions. Addressing the extraordinary combination of environmental and social disruptions during the last six months has stretched SOC’s staff resources to the limit, and correspondingly diminished its capacity to complete the modifications necessary to return the Station to the air.

With the benefit of experience, SOC has developed strategies to meet its organizational needs during the pandemic. With the coming of winter, the effects of wildfires and social unrest are expected to subside. Working in a less chaotic environment, SOC expects to have the time and resources to complete the modification necessary to return the Station to the air within the coming months. Furthermore, third parties have expressed an interest in assisting SOC to successfully reestablish the Station in the Portland community

SOC respectfully requests that the Station’s license be extended for another six months

notwithstanding its continued silence. Such a grant would be a warranted exercise of the statutory discretion the Commission has to extend licenses of silent stations in the interest of fairness and equity.