

Request for STA to Operate on Interim Facilities – KGBT-TV

KGBT Licensee, LLC, licensee of station KGBT-TV, Harlingen, Texas, FIN 34457 (“KGBT”), hereby requests special temporary authority (“STA”), 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. The station is currently operating on interim facilities on its post-repack channel pursuant to special temporary authority (LMS File No. 0000116214), and hereby requests an extension of that STA for an additional 60 days until December 30, 2020 to continue to so operate.

KGBT was assigned to transition from Channel 31 to Channel 18 in Phase 10 of the repack. The station has made significant progress in constructing its post-transition facilities, including installation of its permanent post-repack transmitter. However, installation of the station’s permanent post-repack antenna was delayed due to scheduling and tower crew issues brought on by the global COVID-19 pandemic, and by various states’ stay-at-home orders. More recently, further delays have resulted from the lack of availability of helicopters to perform the top mount antenna installation due to the deployment of helicopters to fight wildfires in California. As a result of these delays, KGBT is not certain that it will be able to fully complete construction of its permanent post-repack facilities by the current October 31, 2020 deadline under its construction permit.

KGBT respectfully requests extension of its STA to continue to operate on its post-repack channel from interim facilities for 60 days while construction is completed on its permanent facilities. This request will not impact the repack efforts of other stations because KGBT will continue to operate on its post-repack Channel 18. Furthermore, grant of the instant STA request would be in the public interest because it would allow KGBT to continue serve its community without disruption to the overall repack. By separate filing KGBT is simultaneously requesting tolling of its construction permit (LMS File No. 0000105747).