

Supplement to Experimental LPTV STA Request

Chesapeake Television Licensee, LLC (“Applicant”) hereby supplements its request for Experimental Low Power Television Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) to provide the following additional information regarding its proposal to conduct experimental low power operations for a period not to exceed six months.

Applicant is requesting STA to conduct temporary experimental operations on a low power television transmitter on channel 24 in Hunt Valley, MD to understand the performance of a very low power ATSC 3.0 transmission source (e.g., a broadcast radio head or “BRH”) and the anticipated positive impact of BRHs on indoor reception and reception in other difficult environments with small mobile/portable devices. These BRHs are designed for multiple single frequency network (“SFN”). Such “micro-SFNs” or “gap-fillers” will eventually be an important part of SFN strategies deployed to serve the public with a higher quality of broadcast and other ATSC 3.0 services, and the proposed experimental operations are the first stage of implementation.

The proposed low-power testing cannot be conducted in the same manner from Applicant’s full-power television station (WBFF(TV), Baltimore, MD) using the existing ATSC 3.0 procedures. Although Applicant anticipates that WBFF(TV) will participate in an ATSC 3.0 launch with other full-power television stations within the coming months, the instant experimental STA is necessary to enable Applicant to conduct the proposed testing from an extremely low power transmitter in isolation from other signals; i.e., independent from a larger SFN and certainly independent from a full-power ATSC 3.0 station. Because it would be difficult, if not impossible, to characterize the proposed low power signal individually without turning off the high-power signal(s) (which itself would likely require an engineering STA), the requested experimental STA is necessary to enable such testing to be conducted while avoiding disruption to viewers. The location of the low power transmitter is also important to the proposed mobile connectivity testing, as the transmitter will be located on the rooftop of the Hunt Valley, MD building where the ATSC 3.0 reception-capable mobile devices are being developed and tested in Applicant’s lab facilities rather than on a tower in Baltimore, MD where Applicant’s full-power facility is located.

Applicant expects that the proposed testing will be completed in six months or less, and that the channel 24 transmitter will ultimately be incorporated into a SFN following the full-power stations’ ATSC 3.0 launch in Baltimore, MD (pursuant to the Commission’s SFN licensing procedures). For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the public interest would be served by grant of this time-limited request for experimental STA to conduct very low-power signal testing, as such tests are expected to speed and improve deployment of enhanced ATSC 3.0 services and mobile connectivity and are not expected to result in any countervailing harm.