

As a result of the incentive auction and repacking process, digital low power television WHDT-LD, Boston, Massachusetts (the “Station”) was displaced from its operation on Channel 38, and subsequently filed for and was granted the instant construction permit to relocate to Channel 4.<sup>1</sup> As the Commission is aware,<sup>2</sup> as the Licensee was proceeding towards construction, the Station received notice from T-Mobile to vacate its channel due to the commencement of wireless operations.<sup>3</sup> This forced the Station off the air, depriving of it operating revenues, just as cold New England weather conditions made it impractical to schedule the required tower work to return to air on Channel 4. Shortly thereafter, challenges associated with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic began and have continued to impact construction of the Station’s Channel 4 facility.

While the Licensee has provisioned equipment to construct the displacement facility, including the required transmitter, antenna, mask filter, and transmission line, and has continued to work on the non-tower related elements of the Station’s construction as permitted by COVID restrictions, additional work is still needed. Moreover, a significant element of the Station’s construction involves the use of a heavy-lift helicopter to mount the Station’s antenna. Scheduling the use of a heavy-lift helicopter on the East Coast is impacted by demand for such equipment in other parts of the country and generally depends on coordinating a number of jobs for the helicopter in the same area at the same time. Use of a helicopter in the highly congested neighborhood of tall buildings where the transmitter site is located also involves an extensive permitting process. As a result, the Licensee’s ability to schedule the required helicopter usage at the appropriate time in the Station’s construction is not in his control and may cause unanticipated delays or necessitate revisions to the Station’s buildout plan.

Accordingly, in an abundance of caution, given the various headwinds facing the Station as it attempts to complete construction of its Channel 4 facility, the Licensee requests a 180-day extension of its construction permit.

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<sup>1</sup> See FCC File No. 0000052060.

<sup>2</sup> See FCC File No. 0000130073.

<sup>3</sup> See FCC File No. 0000087705.