

Request Tolling of Construction Permit – KATU(TV)

Sinclair Portland Licensee, LLC, licensee of digital television broadcast station KATU(TV), Portland, OR (Facility ID No. 21649) (the “Station”), pursuant to Section 73.3598(b) of the Commission’s rules, respectfully requests a waiver of the Commission’s tolling provisions for the Station’s post-auction construction permit (“CP”) for Channel 24 (See LMS File No. 0000033626, construction period tolled in LMS File No. 0000137996). The Station is currently operating on its post-auction Channel 24 using interim facilities pursuant to special temporary authority (LMS File No. 0000137995). Based on the unusual and unexpected circumstances provided below, the Station respectfully requests tolling of the Station’s CP for an additional period of 90 days until **September 6, 2021**.

Request for Tolling. The Station has made significant progress in constructing its post-transition facilities, including installation of the Station’s permanent antenna and transmitter. However, ongoing issues involving the combiner have continued to prevent the Station from operating at full power. Work on the combiner was delayed because of restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the need to have the combiner redesigned by the manufacturer. The installation of the new combiner currently is scheduled for mid-June. However, the combiner will be serving three different stations, including the Station, and due to the complexity of the combiner and the technical issues which may result, the Station estimates that it will take an additional period of up to 90 days before the new combiner has been installed, tested and is fully operational. Consequently, the Station respectfully requests that its CP be tolled for a period of 90 days since it is not able to operate on its permanent post-repack facilities at this time and therefore is not able to cover its CP as planned with a license application. This brief extension of time should enable the completion of work necessary for installation of the Station’s final post-transition facilities. A request for a corresponding extension of the above-referenced special temporary authority is also being filed.

Conclusion. The Station respectfully submits that the instant request will not adversely impact the repack efforts of other stations because the Station will continue to operate on its post-repack channel. Furthermore, the Station respectfully submits that a grant of this tolling request would be in the public interest because it would allow the Station to continue operating without disruption of service to the public.