

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CP DEADLINE
AND FOR
WAIVER OF DEADLINE FOR FILING OF CP EXTENSION REQUEST

Pursuant to FCC Public Notice, DA-20-724, released July 13, 2020¹, Freelancer Television Broadcasting, Inc. (“Freelancer”), permittee of the low power television construction permit for WLLZ-LD (File No. 0000071863, Facility ID 16651), hereby requests a six month extension of time to complete construction of the facility, along with a waiver of the deadline for filing a CP Extension Request.

The Commission’s Reminder PN states the requirement of a good cause showing for any extension request that demonstrates failure to meet the construction deadline “due to circumstances that are either unforeseeable or beyond the licensee’s control and that the licensee has taken all reasonable steps to resolve the problem expeditiously. Such circumstances include “inability to obtain equipment.” (Reminder PN at 1.) That is the case here. This filing has been necessitated by a recent discovery, made during the process of installing the new digital antenna, that one additional part – a connector flange – was needed. Specifically, on May 10, 2021, Freelancer’s vendor Northern Tower Erection Company (“Northern Tower”) alerted Freelancer that the connector flange installed on the transmit antenna does not match the connector that is on the line, and that the connector needs to be replaced. Freelancer approved the ordering of a new flange on May 12th. On June 17th, Northern Tower informed Freelancer that the connector flange remained on backorder for at least another month. Accordingly, a flange was ordered from a new vendor on June 17th. *See* the attached documentation.

Timeline: The vendor of the flange stated that the equipment can be shipped after July 9th. The exact date of delivery is unknown at this time, but hopefully will occur in July. Once the part is obtained, it is unknown at this time exactly when Northern Tower can schedule installation and completion of construction, but Northern Tower has stated that once tower work is scheduled, installation and completion of construction can be concluded within one day. Freelancer hopes that that construction can be completed by some time in September.

While Freelancer believes the above timeline to be accurate, it cannot control the events in that timeline. Accordingly, Freelancer seeks a six month extension to cover a worst-case scenario, thus avoiding having to impose more burden on Commission staff by seeking an additional extension if a shorter extension were requested but further delays not in Freelancer’s control occur.

¹ That Public Notice, and the subsequently issued public notice issued on March 4, 2021 on the same topic, reminded Low Power Television and Television Translator Stations of July 13, 2021 Digital Transition Date. In that Public Notice (the “Reminder PN”), the FCC also provided, in part, “In addition to ceasing analog operations by the digital transition date, transitioning LPTV/translator stations that experience delays in completing their digital facilities may seek one last extension of time of their digital construction permits, of not more than 180 days, to be filed no later than March 13, 2021, which is four months prior to the July 13, 2021, transition date.

In addition to an extension of the CP construction deadline, Freelancer seeks a waiver of March 13th deadline for filing for such extension. Section 1.3 of the Commission's rules authorizes waivers upon a showing of good cause. Section 1.925(b)(3)(ii) of the Commission's rules authorizes waivers where "[i]n view of unique or unusual factual circumstances of the instant case, application of the rule(s) would be inequitable, unduly burdensome or contrary to the public interest, or the applicant has no reasonable alternative." The present case meets both standards.

In regards to the request for waiver of the March 13th filing deadline, Freelancer had no need to file at that time, since it was prepared to complete construction and commence operations prior to the July 13th construction deadline. Because it only learned of the unworkable flange in May, and immediately took diligently took steps to correct that, denial of this waiver request would be inequitable and unduly burdensome, and contrary to the public interest in Freelancer providing its over-the-air TV service to the public. Freelancer had no reasonable alternative.

As reflected above, Freelancer has been hindered by a circumstance beyond its control, but continues to diligently move forward in good faith. Freelancer respectfully requests a six month extension of its construction permit until January 12, 2022.

DOCUMENTATION

On Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 2:55 PM John Gordon <johnngordon@northerntowerco.com> wrote:

Eric,

Once we have the connector and an opening in our schedule it should only take one day to complete.

John Gordon

Operations Manager

Northern Tower Erection Company

6010 East Traverse Highway

Traverse City, MI 49684

P 231-947-6048

M 231-313-1133 voice or text

F 231-947-3615

johnngordon@northerntowerco.com



From: Eric Wotila <ewotila@yournewsnet.com>

Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 1:54 PM

To: John Gordon <johnngordon@northerntowerco.com>; Paul Feldman <feldman@fhhlaw.com>

Subject: Timeline for Completion once You Receive Connector?

John,

We are putting in paperwork with the FCC due to the delays the missing connector has caused to our project.

They need to know how quickly we can be on-air once that connector arrives. Can you give us a timeframe to complete tower work once you have the missing connector in-hand?

Thanks!

Eric Wotila

President, NewsNet

231-577-1844 x101

www.yournewsnet.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Gordon** <johngordon@northerntowerco.com>

Date: Thu, Jun 17, 2021 at 9:07 AM

Subject: RE: Revised quote

To: Eric Wotila <ewotila@yournewsnet.com>, Jeannie Gordon
<jagordon@northerntowerco.com>

Hi Eric,

Unfortunately the connector we need for the line at the antenna is on backorder. When I placed the order over a month ago the lead time was 30 days. CommScope is now telling my vendor another month. I am working on trying to find it from another vendor. If you have any contacts that might have one the part number is CommScope H7FB-110-S

Alternatively, maybe it would be faster to ship the antenna back to the manufacturer and have a connector put on that matches the existing connector on the line.

John Gordon

Operations Manager

Northern Tower Erection Company

6010 East Traverse Highway

Traverse City, MI 49684

P 231-947-6048

M 231-313-1133 voice or text

F 231-947-3615

johnngordon@northerntowerco.com



From: Eric Wotila <ewotila@yournewsnet.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 8:53 AM

To: John Gordon <johnngordon@northerntowerco.com>; Jeannie Gordon
<jagordon@northerntowerco.com>

Subject: Re: Revised quote

John,

Just following up on this - have the items you were waiting on arrived? Can we perhaps get the final tower work done the week of the 28th?

Our FCC-mandated deadline to get this work done and paperwork filed is July 13 and that's quickly approaching -- I'd really like to get this wrapped up at the end of this month if at all possible!

Let me know your thoughts and we can go from there. Thanks!

Eric Wotila

President, NewsNet

231-577-1844 x101

www.yournewsnet.com

On Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 8:52 AM Eric Wotila <ewotila@yournewsnet.com> wrote:

Checking in on this, is everything you need on track to arrive this week?

Any thoughts on when you'd like to schedule the final tower work? I'll be out of town on vacation starting Friday; I'll return to the office on Monday, June 28 -- so perhaps we could get the work done the week I return?

Eric Wotila

President, NewsNet

231-577-1844 x101

www.yournewsnet.com

On Wed, Jun 2, 2021 at 8:31 AM Eric Wotila <ewotila@yournewsnet.com> wrote:

Thanks for the update. I'll look forward to hearing more in the next couple of weeks.

Eric Wotila

President, NewsNet

231-577-1844 x101

www.yournewsnet.com

On Wed, Jun 2, 2021 at 7:30 AM John Gordon <johngordon@northerntowerco.com> wrote:

Hi Eric,

Some of the items we had to order are on backorder. The latest information from our supplier shows them arriving in 2 weeks, so we should be on track to complete this by the end of June. If anything changes I will send you an update.

John Gordon

Operations Manager

Northern Tower Erection Company

6010 East Traverse Highway

Traverse City, MI 49684

P 231-947-6048

M 231-313-1133 voice or text

F 231-947-3615

johngordon@northerntowerco.com



From: Eric Wotila <ewotila@yournewsnet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 4:07 PM
To: Jeannie Gordon <jagordon@northerntowerco.com>; John Gordon <johngordon@northerntowerco.com>
Subject: Re: Revised quote

Any updates on when you'll be installing the antenna?

We have a hard deadline per the FCC to get this wrapped up by the end of June -- just making sure we're on track!

Thanks,

Eric Wotila

President, NewsNet

231-577-1844 x101

www.yournewsnet.com

On Wed, May 12, 2021 at 8:28 PM Jeannie Gordon <jagordon@northerntowerco.com> wrote:

Will do

Jeannie Gordon

Northern Tower Erection Co

On May 12, 2021, at 11:06 AM, Eric Wotila <ewotila@yournewsnet.com> wrote:

Approved! Go ahead and order.

Thanks!

Eric Wotila

President, NewsNet

231-577-1844 x101

www.yournewsnet.com

On Wed, May 12, 2021 at 10:58 AM Jeannie Gordon <jagordon@notherntowerco.com> wrote:

Hello Eric,

I have attached a revised quote to include the materials needed to accommodate the new antenna at the top of the tower. Please let us know that the additional material costs are approved so we can proceed to order.

Jeannie Gordon

Northern Tower Erection Co

231-620-6048

Begin forwarded message:

From: John Gordon <johnngordon@northerntowerco.com>
Date: May 11, 2021 at 7:48:58 AM EDT
To: Eric Wotila <ewotila@yournewsnet.com>
Cc: Jeannie Gordon <jagordon@northerntowerco.com>
Subject: RE: Tower Equipment

Eric,

We are going to try and get the receive antenna and line installed today, but the weather might prevent us from completing.

The connector flange installed on the transmit antenna does not match the connector that is on the line. We will need to replace that connector.

I would suggest having your engineers install your equipment in the shelter at any time. We can then route the lines in the shelter to where they need to go.

Thank you.

John Gordon
Operations Manager
Northern Tower Erection Company
6010 East Traverse Highway
Traverse City, MI 49684
P 231-947-6048
M 231-313-1133 voice or text
F 231-947-3615
johnngordon@northerntowerco.com<<mailto:johnngordon@northerntowerco.com>>
[untitled]<<http://www.northerntowerco.com/>>

From: Eric Wotila <ewotila@yournewsnet.com>
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 12:29 PM
To: John Gordon <johnngordon@northerntowerco.com>
Cc: Eric Wotila <ewotila@yournewsnet.com>; Jeannie Gordon <jagordon@northerntowerco.com>
Subject: Re: Tower Equipment

Here are the connections on the mask filter. Hope this helps. If you need anything else just let me know![[cid:image002.jpg@01D7463A.0FCB53F0]][cid:image003.jpg@01D7463A.0FCB53F0]

Eric Wotila
President, NewsNet
855-64-NEWS1 x101
www.yournewsnet.com<<http://www.yournewsnet.com/>>

Sent from my iPhone

On May 10, 2021, at 11:05 AM, John Gordon

<johnngordon@northerntowerco.com<mailto:johnngordon@northerntowerco.com>> wrote:

Hi eric,

We are ready to schedule the installation. However, there is an issue with the flange on the new antenna. The existing connectors both top and bottom are 7/8 EIA. The new antenna is 1-5/8 EIA. Do you know what connector is on your transmitter?

John Gordon

Operations Manager

Northern Tower Erection Company

6010 East Traverse Highway

Traverse City, MI 49684

P 231-947-6048

M 231-313-1133 voice or text

F 231-947-3615

johnngordon@northerntowerco.com<mailto:johnngordon@northerntowerco.com>

<<http://www.northerntowerco.com/>>

<image001.png><<http://www.northerntowerco.com/>>

From: Eric Wotila <ewotila@yournewsnet.com<mailto:ewotila@yournewsnet.com>>

Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 4:42 PM

To: John Gordon

<johnngordon@northerntowerco.com<mailto:johnngordon@northerntowerco.com>>

Cc: Eric Wotila <ewotila@yournewsnet.com<mailto:ewotila@yournewsnet.com>>; Jeannie

Gordon <jagordon@northerntowerco.com<mailto:jagordon@northerntowerco.com>>

Subject: Re: Tower Equipment

John,

The lease has been signed and we're all set to get this install scheduled! Let me know what works for you and we'll go from there. Thanks!

Eric Wotila

President, NewsNet

855-64-NEWS1 x101


www.yournewsnet.com<<http://www.yournewsnet.com/>>

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 16, 2021, at 1:11 PM, John Gordon

<johnngordon@northerntowerco.com<mailto:johnngordon@northerntowerco.com>> wrote:

If everything is squared away with the tower owner, we can get it scheduled.

John Gordon
Operations Manager
Northern Tower Erection Company
6010 East Traverse Highway
Traverse City, MI 49684
P 231-947-6048
M 231-313-1133 voice or text
F 231-947-3615
johnngordon@northerntowerco.com<mailto:johnngordon@northerntowerco.com>>


From: Eric Wotila <ewotila@yournewsnet.com<mailto:ewotila@yournewsnet.com>>
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 1:09:01 PM
To: John Gordon
<johnngordon@northerntowerco.com<mailto:johnngordon@northerntowerco.com>>
Cc: Jeannie Gordon
<jagordon@northerntowerco.com<mailto:jagordon@northerntowerco.com>>
Subject: Re: Tower Equipment

Got it, what are our next steps in scheduling the install?

Eric Wotila
President, NewsNet
231-577-1844 x101
www.yournewsnet.com<<http://www.yournewsnet.com>>

On Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 1:07 PM John Gordon
<johnngordon@northerntowerco.com<mailto:johnngordon@northerntowerco.com>> wrote:
Yes, everything has been delivered.

John Gordon
Operations Manager
Northern Tower Erection Company
6010 East Traverse Highway
Traverse City, MI 49684
P 231-947-6048
M 231-313-1133 voice or text
F 231-947-3615
johnngordon@northerntowerco.com<mailto:johnngordon@northerntowerco.com>>

[08]

From: Eric Wotila <ewotila@yournewsnet.com><mailto:ewotila@yournewsnet.com>>
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021, 13:06
To: John Gordon; Jeannie Gordon
Subject: Tower Equipment

Just checking in - has our new antenna and/or the other equipment for our transmitter upgrade project arrived?

Thanks,

Eric Wotila
President, NewsNet
231-577-1844 x101
www.yournewsnet.com<<http://www.yournewsnet.com>>



RF Specialties®

OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC

619 Industrial Park Road - Ebensburg, PA 15931
 Phone (814) 472-2000 - Fax (814) 472-2230
 Email: dave@rfspecialtiesofpa.com

Order Confirmation

Date	Order #
06/17/21	P28881

Sold To: WLLZ-D

Eric Wotila
 320 W. 13th. Street
 Cadillac, MI 49601
 USA

Phone: 855-646-3971

Fax:

Ship To: Northern Tower Erection Co.

John Gordon
 6010 E. Traverse Highway
 Traverse City, MI 49684
 USA

Phone: 231-947-6048

Fax:

Terms
 Credit Card

Rep
 Dave

P.O. Number

Ship Via
 Best Surface

Line	Qty	Part #	Description	Unit Price	Ext. Price
------	-----	--------	-------------	------------	------------

RE: WLLZ-LD Cedar, MI - Facility ID: 16651

1	1	H7FB-110-S	1-5/8" EIA female flange connector, gas barrier, no inner connector, no flange o-ring or hardware kit, (field drill for gas pass)	\$348.89	\$348.89
2	1	BN-918311	1-5/8" EIA inner connector, (bullet), flange o-ring and flange hardware kit	\$25.83	\$25.83

lead-time: can ship after July 9th

please advise delivery date after 07/09 and we will ship accordingly

please call with credit card information to secure the quoted items - contact Jennifer at 814-472-2000 - mention this quote number

SubTotal	\$374.72
Sales Tax	\$0.00
Shipping	\$0.00
Total	\$374.72

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE - PRICES BASED ON CURRENT LIST PRICES - ALL DELIVERY COSTS APPLICABLE TO BE ADDED, WE SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIM ANY AND ALL WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OR WITH REGARD TO ANY LICENSED PRODUCTS. WE SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS OF PROFITS, BUSINESS, GOODWILL, DATA, INTERRUPTION OF BUSINESS, NOR FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS OF PURPOSE, DAMAGES RELATED TO THIS AGREEMENT. MINIMUM 20% RESTOCKING FEE WITH ORIGINAL PACKAGING. STRICT NET 30 TERMS - DISCOUNT VOID 31 DAYS