

Request for Extension Of Special Temporary Authority

Puerto Rico Public Broadcasting Corporation (“PRPBC”), licensee of Station WIPM-DT, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico (“Station”), hereby requests an extension of the Special Temporary Authority to operate at reduced facilities (0000111347) (“STA”).

The Station commenced operations with reduced facilities on January 25, 2019, and is nearly finished with constructing its post-Incentive Auction facilities.

Therefore, pursuant to the flexibility afforded by the FCC to Puerto Rico licensees pursuant to the Public Notice, DA 18-901, dated August 30, 2018, following the damage sustained after Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico in September 2017, PRPBC requests an extension of the STA to operate with reduced facilities. Although, by this request, PRPBC is requesting an additional six months to operate pursuant to the facilities set forth herein, PRPBC expects to commence operations pursuant to the terms of its “repack” construction permit by the end of September 2021.

PRPBC has taken substantive steps to complete the construction of its post-Incentive Auction facility, but because the Station is on the same tower as Station WNJX, and due to the lack of certified tower riggers, these efforts were delayed.¹ Although Station WNJX has been able to complete its work and has filed an application for a license to cover its post-Incentive Auction facility, unfortunately, due to a reorganization within the local government on Puerto Rico, there have been delays in obtaining final approval from the new agency that now controls the purchase of equipment and services for PRPBC for the storage and transportation costs associated with delivering the Station’s transmitter to the transmitter site. PRPBC expects that the governmental agency will issue its final approval soon, so that the transmitter can be delivered to the transmitter site by the end of August 2021. The transmitter installation may begin within two weeks after the delivery of the Station’s transmitter, and be completed within a few weeks thereafter. The Station’s antenna installation is complete and the transmission line has to be tested to verify if the efforts to dry the transmission line were successful. However, there could be some delays if additional work or replacement of the transmission line is necessary, or if there are additional delays occur due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, PRPBC is hopeful that all work will be completed by the end of September 2021.

PRPBC has been working as diligently as possible to complete construction but has faced insurmountable obstacles, including changes associated with the reorganization of the Puerto Rico government, and the delayed delivery of construction resources and transmission equipment, which has forced PRPBC to continue operation on its post-Incentive Auction channel with reduced facilities. The devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have added to the delays.

PRPBC will inform the Commission when construction has been completed on its Post-Incentive Auction facilities.

¹ The reconstruction efforts of the tower for Station WNJX (and Station WIPM) were detailed in the most recent Tolling Request filed by Station WNJX’s licensee. *See* File No. 0000139098.