

Request for Extension Of Special Temporary Authority

Telecinco, Inc., licensee of Station WRFB(TV), Carolina, Puerto Rico (“Station”), hereby requests a further extension of the Special Temporary Authority to operate at reduced facilities (0000122550, 0000141019, 0000153592) (the “STA”). Telecinco received the STA pursuant to the Public Notice, DA 18-901, dated August 30, 2018 (“Public Notice”), providing additional time for television stations that have been silent since Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico in September 2017.

As the FCC is aware, Hurricane Maria destroyed the tower site specified in the Station’s post-Incentive Auction construction permit authorization. The Station commenced operations with reduced facilities on February 23, 2019, and is in the process of constructing its post-Incentive Auction facilities. Telecinco has taken delivery of most of the equipment, but has faced unexpected delays in the construction of the replacement tower due to local permitting delays.

In early March 2021, Telecinco finally received approval from the local zoning board but is still required to submit the final construction plan and pay the local construction taxes. As noted, Telecinco has received all necessary equipment to construct the facility, except for the tower that was to be constructed by ERI, and installed by ERI’s local contractor. Due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic, ERI’s local contractor has gone out of business, requiring ERI to complete both the construction and installation of the tower.

ERI visited the authorized transmitter site in August 2021 to review the work that has been completed thus far, and prepared an estimate that has since been sent to the Repack Administrator for approval (0000028155). Telecinco remains on schedule to obtain the final local zoning construction permit by October 2021, and receive authorization from the FCC’s repack administrator for the adjusted expenses to have ERI to complete the work. Telecinco expects that the construction of the tower will be completed, and the Station fully operational, by the end of January 2022.

Recognizing this progress, the Commission recently granted Telecinco’s request to be extend the deadline to submit reimbursement requests until the March 22, 2022 deadline (0000158767). As such, extension of the current STA until March 22, 2022, would be appropriate to permit Telecinco to complete its work.

Therefore, pursuant to the flexibility afforded by the FCC to Puerto Rico licensees, Telecinco requests an extension of the STA to operate with reduced facilities through March 22, 2022. Telecinco is working as diligently as possible to complete construction, but has faced insurmountable obstacles, including the delayed delivery of construction resources and transmission equipment, which has forced Telecinco to commence operation on its post-Incentive Auction channel with reduced facilities.