

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. Although Station WNJX has been able to complete its work and now operates with its post-Incentive Auction facility, unfortunately, the Station has been unable to complete its work due to circumstances beyond its control.

Importantly, on April 1, 2021, the Puerto Rico General Services Administration (“PRGSA”) assumed control of the procurement and purchase procedures for PRPBC. That means that PRGSA now must approve the expense order for the storage and delivery of PRPBC’s equipment. Since April 1, 2021, PRPBC has contacted the PRGSA several times per week regarding securing the necessary approval. Unfortunately, despite PRPBC’s diligence in seeking such approval and for reasons beyond PRPBC’s control, the PRGSA has not provided that approval. PRPBC recently has been informally advised that PRGSA will issue its final approval during October 2021, so that the Station’s equipment can be delivered to the transmitter site and work can begin sometime in late October or early November 2021.

Once the equipment is delivered to the Station’s transmitter site, PRPBC expects all work to be completed within just a few weeks after delivery. 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 beyond the control of PRPBC, such as hurricanes or earthquakes during the Fall, and the possibility of worsening COVID-19 infection rates, all of which are beyond PRPBC’s control.

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.