

Request for Reduced Power STA

The instant Request for Reduced Power STA is filed by Saint Augustine’s University (“SAU”), the licensee of WAUG-LD, Raleigh, NC (the “Station”).

SAU is a historically black university established in 1867 by the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. It is a four-year liberal arts university located in Raleigh with an average enrollment of approximately 1,000 students.

WAUG-LD is currently silent as of August 29, 2019, as a result of being displaced during the repack. *See, e.g.*, LMS File No. [0000157487](#).

SAU was granted a displacement construction permit to operate WAUG-LD on channel 4 (LMS File No. [0000054638](#)). Due to a number of factors—including, initially, financial and human resources constraints, but then followed by the COVID-19 pandemic, tower crew and supply chain delays, SAU personnel turnover, and vendor delays—construction of the displacement facility was slow. Although significant progress in construction has been made since August 2021 when silent authority was last requested and granted, SAU has not yet been able to complete the facility and return WAUG-LD to air at full, authorized power. The displacement CP, as tolled, expires December 31, 2021.¹

The displacement facility is very nearly complete, but a problem with the new antenna was discovered on or about the late afternoon of December 27, 2021, during the final stages of construction. The antenna installation crew from vendor TEP performed testing and analysis on the antenna using available equipment in an effort to identify the problem. Based on that testing and analysis, it is believed that the antenna power dividers are not working properly. However, to definitively determine the problem that is preventing the antenna from working properly, specialized cabling and connectors from another location are needed. Unfortunately, this specialized equipment cannot be delivered to the Station’s tower site until early January 2022, after the tolled displacement CP expires on December 31, 2021.

At this time, the antenna is capable of returning the Station to air on channel 4 at reduced power (1,400 watts) while SAU and its engineering services vendors await delivery of the specialized equipment to identify the problem and, then, repair the antenna. Accordingly, SAU respectfully requests special temporary authority to operate on channel 4 at reduced power (1,400 watts). Based on information available at this time, it is believed reduced power STA is needed through **January 31, 2022**.

Since August 2021 when silent STA was last requested, SAU has made substantial progress constructing the WAUG-LD channel 4 facility. The following aspects of the project have been completed since that time:

¹ SAU is also filing a request to further toll the displacement CP.

- WAUG-LD tower repair services are complete.
- Iso-coupler installation, ice bridge replacement, and tower electrical services for the WAUG-LD tower are complete.
- Electrical work on the channel 4 transmitter is complete.
- The channel 4 transmitter has been delivered and installed. The transmitter installers were on site and performed final proofing on or about December 22 and 23, 2021.
- The channel 4 antenna system has been delivered and installed. The antenna line sweep has also been completed. However, as described above, the antenna is not working properly at this time and needs additional diagnostics and, likely, repair to operate the station at full, authorized power.

As discussed above, specialized equipment is needed to isolate and diagnose the precise problem with the antenna. This equipment has been requested and is expected to be available at the tower site during the first week or so of January 2022. Other than the antenna issue, the only outstanding item at this time is setup of the ASI, which is scheduled to occur December 29 or 30, 2021.

The licensee respectfully submits that granting this request to operate at reduced power is in the public interest so that WAUG-LD can return to operation and provide programming service of local interest to the Raleigh community.

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