

STA Extension Justification and Engineering Statement
WFLD Channel 24 Chicago, IL
FCC Facility ID # 22211
875 North Michigan (Hancock)
(Interim Main Operations)
January 30, 2024

As a result of the now concluded Incentive Auction, WFLD was repacked from channel 31 to channel 24. WFLD is located on the Willis Tower and is one of seven stations at this site repacked in Phase 6. The repack required replacement of the existing antennas that in turn required significant structural work to the building itself. Due to the lengthy delay in the required site work, WFLD previously requested and was granted an extension of its Construction Permit. In order to meet the Phase 6 deadline for transitioning to its Repack channel 24, WFLD requested and was granted a Special Temporary Authority (STA) to operate on its new channel (24) utilizing an existing master antenna located on the East Tower of the building now named 875 North Michigan Avenue (previously The John Hancock Center). The East Tower facility was temporary pending completion of a new master antenna located on the West Tower at 875 North Michigan Avenue. The new West Tower facility was completed and WFLD applied for and was granted an STA (file number 0000107133) for operation on that facility. Due to the continuing construction delays at the WFLD main Willis Tower site, extensions of this STA were previously requested with the last request for an extension being filed in August 2023 (file number 0000219717) expiring on February 29, 2024.

Once again due to the continuing construction delays beyond the licensee's control at the WFLD main Willis Tower site, it is now anticipated the work will likely not be completed until later this year (2024). Therefore, this application requests that STA file number 0000107133 once again be extended until August 29, 2024.

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