

STA Extension Justification and Engineering Statement
WFLD Channel 24 Chicago, IL
FCC Facility ID # 22211
Willis Tower (Backup 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 requires 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 West Tower of the building now named 875 North Michigan Avenue (previously The John Hancock Center). This facility is temporarily allowing WFLD to provide service on its repacked channel.

Since the above discussed facility at 875 North Michigan Avenue was authorized, WFLD has completed the installation of its new transmitter at the site (Willis Tower) authorized in its repack construction permit (CP); however, the antenna installation authorized in the CP has not been completed.

Although the 875 North Michigan Avenue site will continue to provide service until the Willis Tower facility is completed, WFLD requested and was granted a second STA (file number 0000120212) for a backup facility utilizing their newly installed transmitter and an existing antenna at the Willis Tower site. That STA (file number 0000120212) was previously extended to February 29, 2024 (file number 219722). Due to continuing construction delays, beyond the control of the licensee, on the WFLD main antenna 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 0000120212 once again be extended until August 29, 2024.

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