

Reasons for this STA Request

As the Commission is aware, Abacus Television's station WIIC-LD, Channel 31, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania has been displaced by WKBN-DT in nearby Youngstown, Ohio. Accordingly, WIIC-LD has had to secure a displacement construction permit to operate from another location on channel 10.

The licensee has been hard at work building the new facility on Channel 10. All equipment is purchased, and crews are standing by for installation. A small issue with a local building permit is being worked out. The tower rigging crew cannot commence without the local building permit and a notice to proceed with construction from the tower owner. We think this issue will be settled quickly; however, WIIC-LD has been silent for nearly one year. Out of an abundance of caution, it is respectfully requested that WIIC-LD be granted Special Temporary Authority to return to operation temporarily at parameters at variance with its construction permit until the local building permit is issued, the tower owner, American Tower Company, has issued a notice to proceed with construction, and the station can commence build out per specifications on the construction permit.

A grant of this requested STA will allow WIIC-LD to resume operation within the one-year proscription of the Communications Act of 1934 and the FCC Rules, thereby preserving the broadcast service WIIC-LD has long provided to the citizens of Pittsburgh, PA and its surrounding suburbs, in the Public Interest.

Applicant expects to be able to initiate actual construction of the permanent (CP'd) WIIC-LD facility in as little as 30 days and complete construction in 45 days thereafter, for a total of two and a half months from today. As a result, Applicant believes that the need for an STA will end well before a 6 month STA grant expires.