

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
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**WASHINGTON DC 20554**

**MEDIA BUREAU**  
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January 17, 2018

Salem Media of Virginia, Inc.  
4880 Santa Rosa Road  
Camarillo, CA 93012

Re: Salem Media of Virginia, Inc.  
WSPZ(AM), Washington, DC  
Facility Identification Number: 8681  
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Applicant

This is in reference to the request filed January 9, 2018, on behalf of Salem Media of Virginia, Inc. ("Salem"). Salem requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate the nighttime directional antenna system of station WSPZ(AM) with parameters at variance from license values and/or reduced power while maintaining monitor points within license limits.<sup>1</sup>

In support of the request, Salem states that one of three towers utilized in the WSPZ(AM) nighttime directional antenna system is shared by several other broadcast, land mobile and cellular communications stations. Installation of new equipment on the tower led to a shift in the WSPZ(AM) nighttime antenna monitor parameters and measured pattern. Therefore, WSPZ(AM) requests STA to operate with parameters at variance while the directional array is being restored to its authorized condition.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. Station WSPZ(AM) may operate with parameters at variance from licensed values and/or reduced power while maintaining monitor points within licensed limits. It will be necessary to further reduce power or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. Salem must use whatever means are necessary to protect workers and the public from exposure to radio frequency radiation in excess of the Commission's exposure guidelines. See 47 CFR § 1.1310.

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<sup>1</sup> WSPZ(AM) is licensed for operation on 1260 kHz with a daytime power of 35 kilowatts and a nighttime power of 5 kilowatts, employing different directional antenna patterns (DA2-U).

This authority expires on **July 16, 2018**.

**STA Advisory:** Section 309(f) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, authorizes the Commission to grant STA in cases of "extraordinary circumstances requiring temporary authorizations in the public interest and when delay in the institution of the temporary operations would seriously prejudice the public interest." However, Section 309(f) is not a means by which a licensee/permittee may circumvent established processing procedures which require the filing of an application, nor is it a means by which a broadcaster may enhance his facility or make operation more convenient for the broadcaster. Stations operating with less than licensed facilities under temporary authorities can be viewed as receiving the benefit of a larger protection area than that in which they are currently providing service.

Accordingly, Special Temporary Authorities by nature are to be temporary and are not intended for extended use. Licensees of stations operating under temporary authorities are reminded that timely restoration of permanent facilities is the responsibility of the licensee and should be undertaken expeditiously. Any request for extension of special temporary authorities carries an increased burden with each subsequent request.

Therefore, requests for extension of STA will be granted only where the licensee can show that one or more of the following criteria have been met:

- Restoration of licensed facilities is complete and testing is underway;
- Substantial progress has been made during the most recent STA period toward restoration of licensed operation; or
- No progress has been made during the most recent STA period for reasons clearly beyond the licensee's control, and the licensee has taken all possible steps to expeditiously resolve the problem.

Sincerely,

  
Jerome J. Manarchuck  
Audio Division  
Media Bureau

cc: Frank R. Jazzo, Esq. (via email only)