

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 TWELFTH STREET SW
WASHINGTON DC 20554

MEDIA BUREAU
AUDIO DIVISION
APPLICATION STATUS: (202) 418-2730
HOME PAGE: www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/

ENGINEER: CHARLES N. (NORM) MILLER
TELEPHONE: (202) 418-2767
FACSIMILE: (202) 418-1410
E-MAIL: charles.miller@fcc.gov

September 23, 2011

Howard Liberman, Esq.
Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP
1500 K Street NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005-1209

Re: MLB-Richmond IV, LLC
WWLB(FM), Midlothian, Virginia
Facility Identification Number: 54872
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Counsel:

This is in reference to the request filed September 22, 2011, on behalf of MLB-Richmond IV, LLC ("MLB"). MLB requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate Station WWLB with emergency antenna facilities pursuant to Section 73.1680.¹ In support of the request, MLB states that the station's licensed antenna has failed. MLB states that it has been broadcasting from the licensed auxiliary site of Station WRVQ(FM). MLB states that it has ordered a backup antenna which will be installed directly below the damaged antenna, and requests STA for operation from the licensed WWLB tower with reduced effective radiated power of 1.3 kilowatts, omnidirectional, and reduced antenna height, pending completion of repairs to the licensed antenna.

Section 73.1680 of the Commission's rules provides for operation with emergency antenna facilities following damage to authorized antenna systems, provided that an informal request for continued use of an emergency antenna is filed with the Commission within 24 hours. In particular, Section 73.1680(b)(2) provides that FM and TV stations may erect any suitable radiator, or use operable sections of the authorized antenna(s) as an emergency antenna.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. Station WWLB may continue to operate with emergency antenna facilities as described above. MLB must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored. MLB 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.

This authority expires on **March 23, 2012**.

¹ WWLB is licensed for operation on Channel 255B1 (98.9 MHz) with effective radiated power of 4.8 kilowatts (Max-DA, H&V) and antenna height above average terrain of 227 meters.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles N. Miller", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles N. Miller, Engineer
Audio Division
Media Bureau

cc: MLB-Richmond IV, LLC