

DECLARATION OF STEPHEN DICKMAN

I am the president of the Rural Life Foundation, Inc., licensee of FM translator station W234AW, Pulaski, Tennessee.

W234AW rebroadcasts the signal of WDNX, Olive Hill, Tennessee, which is also licensed to and operated by the Rural Life Foundation. On August 13, 2019, the WDNX transmitter was struck by lightning. The transmitter and most of the related equipment was totally destroyed. Repairs were eventually completed and WDNX was restored to full power operation in February 2020.


The same storm system that damaged the WDNX plant also damaged the transmitter for W234AW and took the translator off the air on August 13, 2019, as well. Upon discovery of this damage the transmitter was sent to the manufacturer, Crown Broadcast, for repairs. Through the fall and winter, our primary effort went into repairing and restoring the full power primary station, WDNX.

Upon returning WDNX to the air, we were able to focus more on the translator. I, or someone on my behalf, prodded Crown periodically to check on the status of repairs and to encourage them to complete the repairs promptly. These contacts were generally unsuccessful in getting faster results.

Like much of the rest of the economy, the covid-19 pandemic hindered Crown's operations. In addition to that problem, Crown personnel admitted to me that our transmitter had been misplaced and was unaccounted for somewhere in their plant. I had to persist with Crown staff to track it down and return it to their processing line. They eventually found it and completed the repairs. The restored transmitter has only now recently been returned to the station's transmitter site. It is installed and ready to resume broadcasting.

We have been unable to operate W234AW since August 13, 2019, due to circumstances beyond our control. The law gives the FCC discretion to extend the authorization for stations that have been silent for more than 12 consecutive months to promote equity and fairness. We request extension of the license under these special circumstances.

Under the penalty of perjury, I declare that the foregoing statement is true and correct to the best of my personal knowledge and belief.



Stephen Dickman
President, Rural Life Foundation, Inc.

10/9/20

Date