

Request for Extension of Special Temporary Authorization

Pursuant to Section 73.1635 of the rules of the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”), American Broadcasting Companies, Inc. (“ABC”), licensee of full-power commercial digital television station WABC-TV, New York, New York (“WABC”), is filing the instant application (“Extension Application”) to request an extension of special temporary authorization (“STA”) to enable the Metropolitan Television Alliance, LLC (“MTVA”) to install a temporary test panel type antenna on the One World Trade Center complex in Lower Manhattan (“1WTC”). The current STA is scheduled to expire on February 28, 2015. For the reasons set forth below, ABC respectfully requests that the STA be extended for an additional 90 days, through May 29, 2015.

On October 16, 2014, WABC submitted to the FCC an application (“Initial Application”) for special temporary authority for the MTVA, on behalf of the three NYC Stations that broadcast digitally on VHF channels (namely, WABC, channel 7; WPIX(DT), channel 11 and WNET, channel 13 (collectively, the “NYC VHF Stations”)), to install a temporary test panel type antenna (“Test Facility”) at 1WTC in order to test the propagation and reception characteristics of VHF TV channels to be compared with the characteristics of the existing VHF transmission facilities located at the Empire State Building.¹ The FCC granted the Initial Application on November 6, 2014. Thereafter, WABC requested an extension of the STA in order to accommodate delays in the installation of the Test Antenna as well as to enable it the MTVA to conduct the VHF signal tests in conjunction with similar tests to measure UHF television signal strength from 1WTC. The STA is scheduled to expire on February 28, 2015.

Since the filing of the Initial Application, the MTVA has installed the transmitters required to conduct the signal tests for the VHF and UHF stations at 1WTC. However, before the MTVA can install the Test Antenna, the Port Authority must conduct a structural review of the tower and Test Antenna. Upon completion of this review, the MTVA can begin to fabricate and install the Test Antenna. Although installation of the Test Antenna is scheduled to occur in the near future, the installation may be delayed, perhaps significantly, as a result of winter weather conditions in New York City. Accordingly, given the delays in the structural review by Port Authority of the Test Antenna, and the ongoing need to coordinate VHF signal testing with UHF signal testing, the tests described in the Initial Application are now scheduled to occur at various dates

¹ See FCC File No. BDSTA-20141016ACR. The Initial Application was subsequently amended by letter to specify a higher height of radiation center above ground level for the test facilities, as well as to include an updated statement of ION Media LPTV, Inc., the current licensee of WPXU-LD consenting to the use of channel 12 for the Test Facility for a period not to exceed four weeks, and to clarify that the parties do not intend to orient the antenna for the Test Facility to 0 degrees True for a duration of more than exceed two weeks, in accordance with the statement of WHYY, Inc., as filed with the Initial Application. See Letter to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, from Tom W. Davidson, Counsel for ABC (Oct. 24, 2014).

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in March 2015, and possibly into April/May 2015 if necessitated by adverse weather conditions or other unforeseen delays. Thus, ABC respectfully requests an extension of the STA for an additional 90 days, from February 28, 2015 until May 29, 2015 to enable it to conduct the tests described in the Initial Application.² Grant of the Extension Application is in the public interest for the reasons set forth in the Initial Application.

² Although MTVA and the NYC VHF Stations intend to conclude the tests in March or April of 2015, it is possible that the testing schedule may need to be further modified if adverse weather conditions or other unanticipated delays prevent the parties from doing so. In this case, the parties will seek the requisite approval of the FCC to extend the STA as appropriate.