

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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April 13, 2020

Richard J. Samson as Receiver
310 West Spruce Street
Missoula, MT 59802

Re: Richard J. Samson as Receiver
KOB(AM), Bozeman, MT
Facility Identification Number: 55677
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Applicant:

This is in reference to the request filed on behalf of Richard J. Samson as Receiver. Mr. Samson requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate station KOB(AM) from an alternate site location with a temporary long-wire antenna.¹ The station has been silent since June 4, 2019 and therefore must resume broadcast operations before 12:01 a.m., June 5, 2020 or the broadcast license for the station will automatically expire as a matter of law.

On December 6, 2019, KOB(AM) was assigned to Richard J. Samson as receiver. Mr. Samson now seeks STA to resume broadcast operations with emergency antenna facilities. Specifically, KOB(AM) requests STA to operate with a long-wire antenna from the KOZB(FM) site. The site is located 19.4 kilometers from KOB(AM)'s licensed site. Operation is proposed with 200 feet (60.96 meters) of #6 copper wire. The wire will be attached 3 feet from the base of the KOZB(FM) tower up to 80 feet on the tower and then 120 feet horizontally to a utility pole. An operating power of 965 watts is proposed.

STA requests which involve a change in transmitter site must include four critical elements: (1) Loss of the licensed site must be beyond the licensee's control; (2) STA facilities must continue to provide service to the licensed community; (3) STA facilities must maintain, as closely as practicable, the licensed service area² without extending it; (4) STA facilities cannot involve the construction of towers intended for permanent use by the station requesting the STA.

¹ KOB(AM) is licensed for operation on 1230 kHz with an unlimited hours power of 1 kilowatt, employing a non-directional antenna pattern (ND1-U).

² For AM - 0.5 mV/m contour; for FM - 1.0 mV/m contour.

Accordingly, the request for STA is GRANTED. However, the proposed power must be reduced from 965 watts to 47 watts in order to not extend the licensed service area. Station KOBB(AM) may operate with the following facilities:

Geographic coordinates	45° 39' 26" N, 110° 48' 22" W (NAD 1927)
Frequency	1230 KHz
Hours of operation	Unlimited
Operating power	47 watts
Antenna type	200 feet (60.96 m) of #6 copper wire

It will be necessary to further reduce power or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. KOBB(AM) must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored. KOBB(AM) 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 **October 10, 2020**.

Notwithstanding the grant of this STA or the expiration date specified herein, the station's license will expire as a matter of law if broadcast operations do not commence by 12:01 a.m., June 5, 2020. See Pub. Law No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56, Section 403(1)(1996) and Order, Silent Station Authorizations, FCC 96-218 (released May 17, 1996). See also Public Notice, Expedited Processing of Applications Filed by Silent Stations, DA 96-818 (May 22, 1996). The licensee must notify the Audio Division immediately upon resumption of broadcasting.

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 black ink that reads "Jerome J. Manarchuck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

Jerome J. Manarchuck
Audio Division
Media Bureau

cc: Matthew H. McCormick, Esq. (via email only)