

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20554**

In reply refer to: 1800B3-KC

JUN 10 2016

Gary S. Smithwick, Esq.
Smithwick & Belendiuk, P.C.
5028 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 301
Washington, DC 20016

In re: **W222BC, Sandersville, GA**
Facility ID No. 149151
Silent since January 12, 2016

Request for Special Temporary
Authority to Remain Silent

Dear Mr. Smithwick:

This letter concerns the request you filed on April 28, 2016, on behalf of Exponent Broadcasting, Inc. ("EB"), for Special Temporary Authority ("STA") to permit FM Translator Station W222BC to remain silent.

EB's request states that Station W222BC went silent on January 12, 2016, for technical reasons. The request includes the appropriate certification regarding Section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988.¹

EB's request is granted. Accordingly, Special Temporary Authority is granted to permit Station W222BC to remain silent not to exceed 180 days from the date of this letter. **Notwithstanding the grant of this Special Temporary Authority, the broadcast license for Station W222BC will automatically expire as a matter of law if broadcast operations do not resume by 12:01 a.m., January 13, 2017.**²

EB is required to notify the Commission when broadcast operations resume. If EB does not file the notification of resumption of operations in a timely manner, the license may be subject to cancellation pursuant to Section 312(g) of the Communications Act, as amended.³

The station's silent status does not suspend the licensee's obligation to comply with all other relevant Commission rules, including the filing, when appropriate, of applications for renewal of broadcast license. It is imperative to the safety of air navigation that any prescribed painting and illumination of the station's tower shall be maintained until removed.⁴

Finally, Section 73.1740(a)(4) of the Commission's Rules permits licensees to temporarily discontinue operations for good cause, and for a period not to exceed 30 days without further authority. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 73.1740(a)(4). This rule requires that the licensee notify the Commission by letter not later than the 10th day of limited or discontinued operations, and requires a licensee to seek Commission authorization for any period of limited or discontinued operations exceeding 30 days. EB failed to submit a timely request for an STA to permit Station W222BC to remain silent beyond February 12, 2016, and

¹ In the event extension of special temporary authority is sought, please renew the certification in this matter.

² *See* 47 U.S.C. § 312(g).

³ In addition to filing a notification of resumption of operations electronically on the date operations resume, notification of resumption must also be emailed to Denise.Williams@FCC.gov.

⁴ *See* 47 C.F.R. §§ 17.6 and 73.1740(a)(4).

the action taken herein shall not be construed as authorizing the station to remain silent between February 12, 2016, and April 28, 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa Scanlan".

Lisa Scanlan
Assistant Chief, Audio Division
Media Bureau