

WHLT(TV), Hattiesburg, Mississippi (Facility ID No. 48668)
Extension of DTV “Phased” Authority
BDSTA-20081218ACV
October 2009

WHLT(TV), Hattiesburg, Mississippi (the “Station”), licensed to Media General Communications Holdings, LLC (“Licensee”), hereby requests a one-month extension of its Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) (FCC File No. BDSTA-20081218ACV) to continue phased DTV service between October 18, 2009 and November 18, 2009.¹ The Station qualifies for an extension of its STA because equipment delivery delays have prevented Licensee from completing construction of its post-transition DTV facilities.

In its *Third Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration of the Implementation of the DTV Delay Act*, the Commission extended the expiration date for all stations with “phased” STAs until October 18, 2009.² For stations that are unable to complete construction of their authorized post-transition DTV facilities by October 18, 2009, the Commission has delegated authority to the Media Bureau to grant extensions on a case-by-case basis.³ To obtain an extension, the station must continue to qualify for a “phased” STA and must provide justification for why additional time is warranted given the station’s particular circumstances.⁴

The Media Bureau should grant a brief one-month extension of Licensee’s STA. Licensee hoped to complete construction of its final DTV facilities several weeks earlier, but equipment delivery delays have pushed back Licensee’s timetable for construction. As of this week, Licensee has now received all of the equipment necessary for construction except for the exciter, which is scheduled to arrive on October 30, 2009.

Despite these unanticipated equipment delays, Licensee is committed to completing construction as quickly as possible once all of the equipment is on hand. Licensee anticipates that it will complete construction and finish testing within two weeks after the exciter arrives. Thus, Licensee believes that the Station will commence operations with its post-transition DTV facilities in mid-November 2009.

The Station continues to qualify for a “phased” STA due to “the significant technical impediment” associated with converting digital transmission equipment that previously was in use by a sister station until June 12, 2009.⁵ As Licensee demonstrated in its initial STA request,

¹ Because Licensee likely will not be implementing full facilities until shortly after October 18, 2009, Licensee also hereby requests to the extent necessary an extension of the Station’s DTV construction permit (FCC File No. BMPCDT-20080410AAZ).

² *Implementation of the DTV Delay Act*, Third Report & Order & Order on Reconsideration, 24 FCC Rcd 3399, ¶ 61 (2009).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*, ¶ 66.

⁵ Third Periodic Review of the Commission’s Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion To Digital Television, *Report and Order*, 23 FCC Rcd 2994, ¶ 94 (2007) (“*Third Periodic Review*”).

operations pursuant to its “phased” STA have permitted the Station to serve more than 100% of the population that received its analog television service.⁶ Licensee further certifies that the operations are not predicted to cause impermissible interference to other stations and that it has no reason to believe that they will prevent other stations from making their transition.⁷ Accordingly, Licensee seeks STA for one month through November 18, 2009, to complete the final stages of the installation of its final post-transition DTV facilities.

⁶ See FCC File No. BDSTA-20081218ACV. See also *Third Periodic Review*, ¶ 94 (requiring a station with a significant technical impediment to reach 100% of its service population to qualify for a “phased” STA).

⁷ *Third Periodic Review*, ¶ 94.