

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 December 15, 2014. For the reasons set forth below, ABC respectfully requests that the STA be extended through February 28, 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, and the STA is scheduled to expire on December 15, 2014.

Subsequent to the filing of the Initial Application, WABC learned that, due to delays in the customs process, the Test Antenna will not be available for installation as early as had been anticipated. Consequently, the tests described in the Initial Application have not yet commenced. Moreover, it is the intention of the MTVA to conduct the VHF signal tests in conjunction with similar tests to measure UHF television signal strength from 1WTC. To this end, on November 20, 2014, ION Media License Company LLC, licensee of WPXN-TV, filed an application (“UHF Application”) for special temporary authority to conduct measurements for UHF television signals, similar to those described in the Initial Application.² The UHF Application requested authority to conduct tests for a thirty day period, during the first two weeks of December 2014, and during various dates in January 2015. The UHF Application was granted on December 2, 2014, and

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). For convenience, a copy of the letter amendment to the Initial Application has been included with the instant Extension Application.

² See FCC File No. BDSTA-20141120ADX.

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expires on January 6, 2015. Subsequent to the grant of the UHF Application, ABC learned that the transmitters for the measurement tests are not likely to be installed until the week of January 5, 2015, such that tests will not commence until the second week of January 2015.

Given the delays in the procurement of the necessary equipment, and the 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 in January 2015, and possibly into February 2015 if necessitated by adverse weather conditions. Thus, ABC respectfully requests an extension of the STA from December 11, 2014 until February 28, 2015 to enable it to conduct the tests described in the Initial Application.³ Grant of the Extension Application is in the public interest for the reasons set forth in the Initial Application.

³ Although MTVA and the NYC VHF Stations intend to conclude the tests in early 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 installing the antenna the week of January 5, 2015. In this case, the parties will seek the requisite approval of the FCC to extend the STA as appropriate.