

WDRB(TV), Louisville, Kentucky (Facility ID No. 28476)
DTV “Phase-In” Special Temporary Authority Request
December 2008

WDRB(TV), Louisville, Kentucky (the “Station”), licensed to Independence Television Company (“Licensee”) hereby requests Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) to continue existing DTV service between February 18, 2009 and August 18, 2009.¹ The Station qualifies for “phased-in” service due to “unique technical challenges” associated with replacement of its top-mounted analog antenna with a new digital antenna.

The Station currently operates with a side-mounted DTV antenna, and its construction permit for post-transition facilities authorizes the replacement of the top-mounted analog antenna with a new digital antenna. The Commission indicated that it would permit television stations facing such “unique technical challenges” to operate at less than their full, authorized facilities temporarily until construction is completed.² A television station must demonstrate that the station (1) in fact is encountering a “unique technical challenge”; (2) can reach 85 percent of the service population; and (3) would not cause impermissible interference.³

The Station’s request satisfies this standard. The Commission explicitly has determined that, as with the Station, the replacement of top-mounted antennas qualifies as a “unique technical challenge.”⁴ Operations pursuant to this STA request will permit the Station to serve all of the same population that receives the Station’s current analog and digital television service.⁵ Licensee certifies that the operations are not predicted to cause impermissible interference to other stations and has no reason to believe that they will prevent other stations from making their transition. Accordingly, Licensee believes that the Station satisfies the Commission’s standards for “phase-in” STA requests.

¹ The current DTV operations are authorized pursuant to BLCDDT-20051128AHQ. Because Licensee will not be implementing full facilities until August 18, 2009, Licensee also hereby requests to the extent necessary an extension of the Station’s DTV construction permit (FCC File No. BPCDDT-20051130ACJ) until August 18, 2009.

² 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*”).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *See id.*, ¶ 53 (recognizing that the need to replace a top-mounted analog antenna with a DTV antenna for post-transition use qualifies as a “unique technical challenge”).

⁵ *Id.*, ¶ 94. Because all current viewers will continue to be served, viewer notifications are not required. *Id.*

Licensee seeks STA through August 18, 2009, pursuant to the remaining schedule for implementing the Station's full post-transition facilities:

- **February 17, 2009** Terminate analog operations on Channel 41. Continue existing digital operations on Channel 49.
- **May 2009** Remove analog antenna. Receive delivery of new digital antenna.
- **June 2009** Install and test new top-mounted digital antenna.
- **July 2009** Remove WMYO(TV) analog antenna and 6 1/8" feed line.
- **August 18, 2009** Terminate operations on Channel 49 side-mounted antenna. Commence digital operations on Channel 49 using top-mounted antenna. **IMPLEMENT FULL POST-TRANSITION OPERATIONS.**

* * *