

Waiver Request

Hoak Media of Dakota License, LLC (“Hoak”), licensee of KMOT(TV), Minot, North Dakota (“KMOT”), respectfully requests a waiver of the current freeze on the filing of DTV maximization applications (“Filing Freeze”) and grant of the instant application (“Application”).¹ The facilities proposed in the Application (“Proposed Facilities”) will extend beyond the facilities specified in Appendix B of the post-transition DTV Table, primarily due to the differences between KMOT’s actual antenna pattern and the theoretical antenna pattern for KMOT specified in Appendix B. In this case, a waiver of the Filing Freeze is warranted because, as demonstrated below, the instant request satisfies every element of the Commission’s Filing Freeze waiver standard. Accordingly, the Commission promptly should grant the Application and waiver request.

Filing Freeze Waiver Standard. The Filing Freeze presently prohibits parties from filing, *inter alia*, any application that would extend a station’s DTV contour beyond the station’s parameters in (i) the DTV Table of Allotments, (ii) existing Commission authorizations and (iii) applications on file with the Commission prior to release of the *Filing Freeze PN*.² In its recent *Third Periodic Review Order*, the Commission announced a new Filing Freeze waiver policy intended to allow the filing of, and FCC grant of, applications to extend a station’s DTV contour under certain circumstances. Specifically, under the recently-adopted policy, the FCC generally will issue a waiver if the station’s proposed expansion: (i) would allow the station to use its analog antenna or a new antenna to avoid a significant reduction in post-transition service from its analog service area, (ii) would be no more than five miles larger in any direction than the station’s authorized service area, as defined by Appendix B, and (iii) would not cause impermissible interference, *i.e.*, more than 0.5 percent new interference, to other stations.³ The waiver policy is intended to “permit rapid approval of minor expansion applications filed by stations that are not using their pre-transition DTV channel for post-transition operation” and to provide “added flexibility for stations that wish to use their existing analog channel antenna.” In doing so, the Commission intended to assist stations that would suffer significant service losses because the “unbuildable, theoretical pattern” in Appendix B does not match the station’s analog antenna pattern.⁴

The Proposed Facilities Satisfy Every Element of the Waiver Standard. As further described in the attached engineering statement, the Proposed Facilities satisfy every element of the Filing Freeze waiver standard described above. First, KMOT proposes to use its existing non-directional analog antenna. Use of this antenna, with its associated antenna pattern, would

¹ See Freeze on the Filing of Certain TV and DTV Requests for Allotment or Service Area Changes, *Public Notice*, 19 FCC Rcd 14810, 14810-11 (MB 2004) (“*Filing Freeze PN*”).

² *Id.*

³ Third Periodic Review of the Commission’s Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion to Digital Television; Public Interest Obligations of TV Broadcast Licensees, *Report and Order*, FCC 07-70, MB Docket No. 07-91, ¶151 (rel. Dec. 31, 2008) (“*Third Periodic Review Order*”).

⁴ *Third Periodic Review Order*, ¶152

permit KMOT serve its analog viewers with an ERP of 7.69 kW at 207 meters HAAT.⁵ In contrast, the antenna pattern currently specified in Appendix B would require KMOT to reduce its post-transition ERP to 6.7 kW, resulting in a coverage loss of 2,343 persons.⁶ Thus, because grant of the waiver request would permit KMOT to use its existing antenna system and thus avoid this reduction in coverage, this request satisfies element one of the Filing Freeze waiver standard. Further, the relevant contour of the Proposed Facilities would extend, at most, only 0.8 kilometers in any direction beyond the facilities specified in Appendix B.⁷ Because this extension is no more than five miles, the second element of the Filing Freeze waiver standard also is satisfied. Finally, the Proposed Facilities satisfy the third element of the waiver standard because they would not cause more than 0.5 percent new interference to any other station.⁸

For the reasons stated herein, Hoak respectfully requests that the Commission grant the Application and associated waiver request so that KMOT may serve its existing analog viewers with a DTV signal.

⁵ Engineering Statement at 3; FCC Form 301, Sec. III-D, DTV Engineering.

⁶ Engineering Statement at 4.

⁷ Engineering Statement at 3.

⁸ Engineering Statement at 4.