

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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MEDIA BUREAU
AUDIO DIVISION
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March 9, 2017

Christian Ministries, Inc.
140 Main Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452-0545

Re: WFTF (FM), Rutland, VT
Christian Ministries, Inc.
Facility Identification Number: 11095
Special Temporary Authority
BSTA-20170131ABO

Dear Licensee:

The request for special temporary authority (“STA”) listed above was filed by Christian Ministries, Inc. (“CM”). CM explains that winter weather broke the station’s directional antenna. CM seeks authority to continue broadcasting with a temporary antenna at the licensed ERP, 0.060 kW. In response to my inquiry, Mr. Troland responded that

“The temporary antenna is at 14 meters {above ground level] and 60 ERP. The antenna info and specs are here: <https://www.kathreinusa.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/FMVMP.pdf>”

This request necessitated a full engineering study to review the effect of the proposed temporary operation. We find that the FMVMP vertically polarized antenna is most commonly used by licensees for nondirectional operation, even though the documentation shows some directional character. The suppression in the null, however, is not sufficient here to provide adequate protection to other nearby stations, most notably first-adjacent channel FM station WVTC, Randolph Center, VT. The analysis is further complicated by the fact that, without directional measurements on a test range in an environment mimicking the surrounding installations, we cannot know the true radiation pattern.

The request for STA will be granted, but with the ERP limited to 2 watts (0.002 kW),¹ until the temporary antenna can be replaced with a new antenna from Shively Labs that is identical to the licensed antenna. This should afford other stations the protection from interference that they are entitled to under the FCC’s rules. A change in antenna to another type will probably require a construction permit application to consider the changed directional pattern that would result.

¹ This will keep the STA 60 dBu service contour within the 60 dBu contour of the licensed facility.

Accordingly, STA IS GRANTED with the ERP limited to 2 watts (0.002 kW) with the temporary FMVMP antenna. This initial STA is granted for a three month period so that we can reassess the impact of WFTF's temporary operation on nearby stations at that time. Extensions of the STA may be requested at the end of the three month period, as needed.

This Special Temporary Authority expires June 9, 2017.

Sincerely,



Dale Bickel
Senior Engineer
Audio Division
Media Bureau

cc: Joseph C. Chautin (via e-mail only)