

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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MEDIA BUREAU
AUDIO DIVISION
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February 5, 2016

Bruce L. Merchant, President
Merchant Broadcasting, Inc.
208 S. Huntington St.
Sulphur, LA 70663-3334

Re: Merchant Broadcasting, Inc. (MBI)
KEZM (AM), Sulphur, LA
Facility Identification Number: 36210
Special Temporary Authority (STA)
BESTA- 20160104ANS

Dear Mr. Merchant:

This is in reference to the request filed on January 4, 2016. MBI requests a sixth extension of the STA granted on July 19, 2011, to operate Station KEZM with temporary facilities due to loss of the licensed site.¹ In support of the request, MBI stated that it remains in the process of reviewing all possible options regarding the required FCC Form 301 filing based upon the outcome of the AM Revitalization proceeding MB Docket 13-249.

Requests for extension of STA will be granted only where the licensee can show that one or more of the following criteria have been met:

- Restoration of licensed facilities is complete and testing is underway;
- Substantial progress has been made during the most recent STA period toward restoration of licensed operation; or
- No progress has been made during the most recent STA period for reasons clearly beyond the licensee's control, and the licensee has taken all possible steps to expeditiously resolve the problem.

MBI is reminded to note that Section 309(f) of the Commission's rules is not a means by which a licensee may circumvent established processing procedures which require the filing of an

¹ KEZM is licensed for DA operation on 1310 kHz with 0.5 kW day and 0.05 kW night.

application, nor is it a means by which a broadcaster may make operation more convenient for the broadcaster, and stations operating with less than licensed facilities under temporary authorities can be viewed as receiving the benefit of a larger protection area than they are currently serving. In addition, technical STAs are not intended for extended use, and timely restoration of permanent facilities is the responsibility of the licensee and should be undertaken expeditiously.

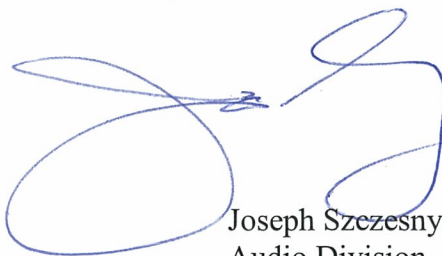
Accordingly, the request for extension of STA IS HEREBY GRANTED, and station KEZM(AM) may continue to operate with the following facilities:

Geographic coordinates	30° 14' 11" N, 93° 20' 47" W (NAD 1927)
Frequency	1310 KHz
Hours of operation	Unlimited
Operating power	Not to exceed 0.125 kW daytime, 0.0125 kW nighttime
Antenna type	Existing ND tower with skirt feed
Antenna efficiency	201.0 mV/m/km/kW
Overall height	42.6 meters

It will be necessary to further reduce power or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. MBI must use whatever means are necessary to protect workers and the public from exposure to radio frequency radiation in excess of the Commission's exposure guidelines. *See* 47 CFR § 1.1310. MBI must file the required FCC Form 301 application after the new rules mentioned in the AM Revitalization proceeding MB Docket 13-249 have been adopted.

This authority expires on **August 5, 2016**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Szczesny', with a large loop at the end.

Joseph Szczesny, Engineer
Audio Division
Media Bureau