



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

December 10, 2021

Pottsville Broadcasting Company, Inc.  
P.O. Box 540  
Pottsville, PA 17901

Re: Pottsville Broadcasting Company, Inc.  
WPPA(AM), Pottsville, PA  
Fac. ID No.: 53134  
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Applicant:

This is in reference to the request filed December 9, 2021, on behalf of Pottsville Broadcasting Company, Inc. ("PBC"). PBC requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate station WPPA(AM) with temporary non-directional facilities.<sup>1</sup>

In support of the request, PBC states that for the third time in the last few years the WPPA(AM) antenna system has been the victim of theft and damage. The feeds to all of the five towers of the WPPA(AM) antenna system were stolen and ground system damage and theft occurred as well. Therefore, the station requests STA to operate during daytime and nighttime hours with emergency non-directional antenna facilities.

Specifically, WPPA(AM) requests non-directional operation from one of the five towers at the licensed site. Operation is proposed with the daytime power reduced to 1.25 kilowatts and the nighttime power reduced to 0.125 kilowatt.

Section 73.1680 of the Commission's rules provide for operation with emergency antenna facilities provided that an informal request for continued use of an emergency antenna is filed with the Commission within 24 hours. In particular, Section 73.1680(b)(1) states that AM stations may use a horizontal or vertical wire or a nondirectional vertical element of a directional antenna as an emergency antenna. AM stations using an emergency nondirectional antenna or a horizontal or vertical wire pursuant to this section, in lieu of authorized directional facilities, shall operate with power reduced to 25% or less of the nominal licensed power, or, a higher power, not exceeding licensed power, while ensuring that the radiated field strength does not exceed that authorized in any given azimuth for the corresponding hours of directional operation.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. Station WPPA(AM) may operate non-directionally during daytime and nighttime hours with the daytime power not to exceed 1.25 kilowatts and the nighttime power not to exceed 0.125 kilowatt. It will be necessary to further reduce or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. WPPA(AM) must use

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<sup>1</sup> WPPA(AM) is licensed for operation on 1360 kHz with a daytime power of 5 kilowatts and a nighttime power of 0.5 kilowatt, employing different directional antenna patterns (DA2-U).

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.

This authority expires on **June 8, 2022**.

**STA Advisory:** Section 309(f) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, authorizes the Commission to grant STA in cases of "extraordinary circumstances requiring temporary authorizations in the public interest and when delay in the institution of the temporary operations would seriously prejudice the public interest." However, Section 309(f) is not a means by which a licensee/permittee may circumvent established processing procedures which require the filing of an application, nor is it a means by which a broadcaster may enhance his facility or make operation more convenient for the broadcaster. Stations operating with less than licensed facilities under temporary authorities can be viewed as receiving the benefit of a larger protection area than that in which they are currently providing service.

Accordingly, Special Temporary Authorities by nature are to be temporary and are not intended for extended use. Licensees of stations operating under temporary authorities are reminded that timely restoration of permanent facilities is the responsibility of the licensee and should be undertaken expeditiously. Any request for extension of special temporary authorities carries an increased burden with each subsequent request.

Therefore, 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.

Sincerely,



Jerome J. Manarchuck  
Audio Division  
Media Bureau

cc: Argie D. Tidmore (via email only)