

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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March 6, 2020

Laura M. Berman, Senior Counsel
Entercom License, LLC
2400 Market Street, 4th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Re: Station WZMX(FM), Hartford, CT
Entercom License, LLC
Facility ID No. 1900
File No. 20200225ACY

Request for Experimental Authority

Dear Ms. Berman:

This letter is in reference to the request filed February 25, 2020, on behalf of the Entercom License, LLC (Entercom), licensee of commercial FM station WZMX(FM), Hartford, Connecticut,¹ for an experimental authorization to operate the station's main facility with a digital effective radiated power (ERP) increase to levels as high as 4 dB above the currently permitted digital power level of -14 dBc.² Entercom requests the experimental authorization be effective for a period of 90 days.

Entercom requests authority to commence a test program to assess the actual level of interference experienced by first adjacent channel stations in the presence of an increased digital power of up to -10 dBc. Entercom states that the proposed test will be conducted in conjunction with the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) and HD Radio system developer, Xperi Corporation to collect information valuable for future In-Band On-Channel (IBOC) digital radio service. Entercom also states that the digital power increase is anticipated to be brief and between midnight and 5 AM. There will be no change made to the current antenna system. Finally, Entercom states that the use of digital power increase will be immediately discontinued in the event of interference complaints received from co- or adjacent channel stations if such complaints are not satisfactorily resolved.

Our review indicates that the proposed experimental operation meets the requirements for experimental operations set forth in Section 5.203.³ We note that by increasing WZMX's digital ERP to

¹ File Number BMLH-20080306AAR. WZMX(FM) is licensed to operate on channel 229B (93.7 Megahertz) using a nondirectional antenna, maximum 17 kilowatts (kW) effective radiated power (ERP), and 259 meters antenna radiation center height above average terrain (HAAT).

² Decibels relative to the analog carrier

³ 47 C.F.R. § 5.203

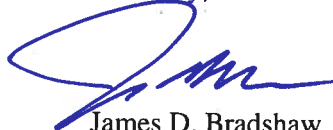
-10 dBc, the proposal fails to meet the contour nonoverlap requirements⁴ of the Media Bureau's Order, adopted January 27, 2010, in Mass Media Docket No. 99-325⁵ with the following first-adjacent stations: (1) WNYC-FM, New York, NY, New York Public Radio; and (2) WRSI(FM), Turners Falls, Massachusetts, Saga Communications of New England, LLC. However, the NAB has indicated that these stations have been notified of the test plan, and the digital power increase would occur only between midnight and 4am.⁶ Therefore, we find that public interest would be served by the knowledge gained through testing of interference level in the presence of an overlap. Accordingly, the request IS HEREBY GRANTED. WZMX may operate with maximum digital ERP as follows:

Analog ERP:	17 kilowatts (kW), H&V ⁷
Digital ERP:	1.7 kW
Hours of Operation:	12am to 5am

This authority is specifically conditioned on the lack of objectionable interference. Operation under this authority shall be terminated if complaints of interference to other FM stations are received. Entercom shall employ whatever means are necessary to prevent excessive exposure of workers or the public to radio frequency radiation, pursuant to Section 1.1310 of the Commission's Rules.⁸ Within 60 days following completion of the experimental operation authorized herein, Entercom shall file a full report detailing the research, experimentation and results of the testing with the Commission, pursuant to Section 5.203(d) of the Commission's Rules.⁹ Any request for extension of this experimental authority should be filed at least 30 days prior to the expiration date of the authority. Additionally, an extension request must include an interim version of the aforementioned report detailing the progress of the experimental operation as of the filing date of the request.

This experimental authority expires on June 4, 2020.

Sincerely,



James D. Bradshaw
Senior Deputy Chief
Audio Division
Media Bureau

cc: David Layer, NAB (via email)
Glynn Walden, Entercom (via email)
Steve Shultz, NYPR (via email)
Russ Mundschenk, Xperi Corporation (via email)

⁴ The predicted 49.5 dBu F(50, 10) interfering contour will overlap with the 60 dBu F(50,50) protected contour of the first adjacent station

⁵ See *Digital Audio Broadcasting Systems And Their Impact on the Terrestrial Radio Broadcast Service*, Order, 25 FCC Rcd 1182 (MB 2010).

⁶ Email dated March 4, 2020 from David Layer to James Bradshaw

⁷ All ERP values rounded in accordance with 47 CFR § 73.212(a).

⁸ 47 C.F.R. § 1.1310.

⁹ 47 C.F.R. § 5.203.