

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 TWELFTH STREET SW
WASHINGTON DC 20554

MEDIA BUREAU
AUDIO DIVISION
APPLICATION STATUS: (202) 418-2730
HOME PAGE: www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/

ENGINEER: CHARLES N. (NORM) MILLER
TELEPHONE: (202) 418-2767
FACSIMILE: (202) 418-1410
E-MAIL: charles.miller@fcc.gov

July 22, 2011

Howard L. Soule, Director of Engineering
The Zone Corporation
Box 1929
Bangor, Maine 04402

Re: The Zone Corporation
WZON (AM), Bangor, Maine
Facility Identification Number: 66674
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Mr. Soule:

This is in reference to the request filed July 21, 2011, on behalf of The Zone Corporation ("TZC"). TZC requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate Station WZON with emergency antenna facilities pursuant to Section 73.1680.¹ In support of the request, TZC states that Station WZON suffered damage to components in its nighttime directional antenna phasing and coupling equipment. TZC requests STA for operation during nighttime hours with an emergency nondirectional antenna and reduced power.

Section 73.1680 of the Commission's rules provides for operation with emergency antenna facilities following damage to authorized antenna systems, 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) provides that AM stations using an emergency nondirectional antenna in lieu of authorized directional facilities shall operate with power reduced to 25 percent or less of the nominal licensed power, or a higher power, not exceeding licensed power, while insuring that the radiated field strength does not exceed that authorized in any given azimuth.

Our review indicates that the request complies with Section 73.1680.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. Station WZON may continue to operate during nighttime hours with an emergency nondirectional antenna and reduced power not to exceed 1.25 kilowatts. It will be necessary to further reduce power or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. TZC must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored.² TZC must use whatever means are necessary to protect workers and the

¹ WZON is licensed for operation on 620 kHz with 5 kilowatts daytime and 5 kilowatts nighttime, employing a directional antenna during nighttime hours only (DA-N-U).

² See 47 CFR §§ 73.45(c), 73.51, 73.54, 73.61(b).

public from exposure to radio frequency radiation in excess of the Commission's exposure guidelines. See 47 CFR § 1.1310.

This authority expires on **January 22, 2012**.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles N. Miller", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles N. Miller, Engineer
Audio Division
Media Bureau

cc: The Zone Corporation