

EXHIBIT 21

WOI-DT, Ames, Iowa

WOI-DT, Ames, Iowa (the “Station”) respectfully submits this request for Special Temporary Authority (“STA”), which amends and supersedes the STA request in FCC File No. BDSTA-20090813ABT. Concurrently with the submission of this request, the Station is seeking an experimental broadcast station authorization, to the extent necessary, pursuant to Sections 74.102 and 74.131 of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 74.102, 74.131.

The Station seeks authorization to operate with facilities at variance from those authorized by the Station’s maximization construction permit (FCC File No. BPCDT-20080620ABC). The Station is currently operating under program test authority with a pending license application to cover (FCC File No. BLCDT-20090618ACR). By this request, the Station seeks authorization to operate with an effective radiated power (“ERP”) of 13.9 kW. Although this proposed ERP slightly exceeds the maximum height/power limitations under Section 73.622(f)(6) for low VHF stations operating in zone 2, it is less than the maximum ERP permitted under the Commission’s rules for low VHF digital stations (45 kW) operating in zones 2 or 3. Moreover, granting the requested relief would serve the public interest and accord with both Commission rules and other recently granted STA requests filed by stations operating under similar circumstances and seeking similar relief.¹

The Station conducted operations on UHF channel 59 prior to the digital transition, but now digitally broadcasts on VHF channel 5. Since its transition to final digital operations on June 12, 2009, the Station has received complaints from viewers concerning their ability to view the Station’s digital signal.² To alleviate the complaints described herein, and in support of this STA request, the Station submits the following:

Widespread Viewer Impact

Since the digital conversion on June 12, 2009, the Station has received (and returned) approximately 769 phone calls from viewers in the area of service. Additionally, the Station has received (and responded to) approximately 85 emails. Approximately 300, or 39%, of these

¹ For example, the FCC recently granted the STA request of WCYB-TV (Bristol, VA) to increase power to 29.9 kW on VHF channel 5 to remedy the same consumer-related problems described herein. *See* FCC File No. BDSTA-20090708AGZ (filed July 8, 2009; granted July 15, 2009). Likewise, the FCC granted the STA request of KRCR-TV (Redding, CA) to increase power to 25.2 kW on VHF channel 7. *See* FCC File No. BDSTA-20090717ABB (filed July 17, 2009; granted July 21, 2009).

² Reports in the press indicate that antenna-related problems have been relatively common for stations that moved their operations from UHF to VHF channels. *See, e.g.,* Glen Dickson, *DTV: A Few Tweaks Left*, Broadcasting & Cable (June 20, 2009), available at <http://bit.ly/1q9tu>; *Reception Problems Linger After DTV Transition*, L.A. Times (June 17, 2009), available at <http://bit.ly/1nMIXE>; *Reception Problems Reported With DTV Transition*, redOrbit (June 18, 2009), available at <http://bit.ly/3KdWK>.

phone calls were made during the weekend of June 12-14, 2009, and dealt with a wide variety of DTV-related matters. Commencing on or about Monday, June 15, 2009, however, most of the calls were questions relating to viewability and antenna operation. Callers generally reported that they were able to receive a strong signal when programming was broadcast from UHF channel 59 (pre-transition), but cannot now receive the signal on VHF channel 5 (post-transition).

Station personnel attempted to assist viewers who called with reception problems. For most viewers, however, a new indoor antenna and/or the directive to “scan,” “re-scan,” and “double re-scan” provided no help. In several cases, engineering staff from the Station provided in-home assistance and discovered the home could not receive any signal because of the indoor antenna. Station personnel learned that many antennas sold in preparation for the digital transition were marketed as “HD” and/or “Digital” antennas, but failed to account for the potential trouble that indoor antennas may have in receiving VHF signals. Only about 15% of the callers could resolve their problems with a new indoor antenna, which Station personnel assisted them in identifying.

Of the complaints where the Station identified an indoor antenna as the primary source of the problem, the large majority came from towns in the Station’s core metro area: *i.e.*, Ames (the Station’s community of license), Boone, Waukee, Indianola, and Urbandale. Approximately 20% of the television households in the Ames/Des Moines, IA DMA rely solely on over-the-air television through an antenna. As the Station believes it has heard from only a fraction of the viewers who cannot view the signal broadcast on VHF channel 5 because of indoor antenna constraints, it is likely that the number of complaints received by the station represents only the tip of the iceberg of indoor antenna reception problems.

Necessary Power Increase

The Station seeks authorization to operate with an ERP of 13.9 kW. As explained in the attached engineering statement, this power increase is not expected to fully resolve the problem, but will alleviate it. The requested ERP is the highest power level that the Station can achieve with its existing equipment.

No Interference

The facilities specified in this STA request would not cause excessive interference to other television stations. The proposed WOI-DT operation will comply with the 0.5% de minimis interference protection requirements and will provide a city grade signal to all of Ames, Iowa.

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A rule waiver “is appropriate if special circumstances warrant a deviation from the general rule, and such deviation would better serve the public interest than strict adherence to the

general rule.”³ In this case, special circumstances warrant a deviation from the power limits specified in Section 73.622(f)(6) because the Station’s actual coverage is significantly constrained and adversely affected because of the unique characteristics of the VHF spectrum. The increase in power requested would provide those viewers throughout its coverage area who cannot view the Station’s programming because of significant technical difficulties relating to indoor antenna reception with a better chance of receiving that programming. There can be no doubt that such a waiver would serve the public interest and advance the goals promulgated by the Commission.

Failure to grant this STA request would deprive many viewers of the free, over-the-air television service that was widely available to them prior to the digital transition. One of the most important objectives in the digital transition was to avoid such a result. As the Commission has noted, “[i]t is a priority of the Commission that all Americans continue to receive the television broadcast service that they are accustomed to receiving following the digital transition.”⁴ The Commission has already provided the relief requested herein to other stations in similar circumstances facing similar antenna-related problems.⁵

Because the foregoing reasons constitute special circumstances, the Station respectfully asks the Commission to grant this waiver.

³ *Douglas-Omaha Tech. Comm’n*, Order, 21 FCC Rcd 9277 ¶ 5 (rel. Aug. 18, 2006); *see also WAIT Radio v. FCC*, 418 F.2d 1153, 1157 (D.C. Cir. 1969) (“[A] general rule deemed valid because its overall objectives are in the public interest, may not be in the ‘public interest’ if extended to an applicant who proposes a new service that will not undermine the policy, served by the rule, that has been adjudged in the public interest.”); 47 C.F.R. § 1.3 (providing for the suspension, revocation, amendment, or waiver of any Commission rule “at any time” “for good cause shown”).

⁴ *Amendment of Parts 73 and 74 of the Commission’s Rules to Establish Rules for Replacement Digital Low Power Television Translator Stations*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 23 FCC Rcd 18534 ¶ 3 (rel. Dec. 23, 2008).

⁵ *See supra* note 1.