



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

December 17, 2019

Nexstar Broadcasting, Inc.
Elizabeth Ryder
545 E. John Carpenter Freeway
Suite 700
Irving, TX 75062

Re: Request for Tolling Waiver
KNWA-TV, Rogers, AR
Facility ID No. 29557
LMS File No. 0000085033

Dear Licensee,

On November 25, 2019, Nexstar Broadcasting, Inc (Nexstar), the licensee of KNWA-TV, Rogers, Arkansas (KNWA or Station), filed the above-referenced request for waiver of the Commission's tolling provisions and tolling of the Station's construction permit expiration date. For the reasons below, we grant Nexstar's request and toll the expiration date of KNWA's construction permit to March 13, 2020.

Background. Pursuant to Section 73.3700(b)(5) of the Commission's rules (Rules), a station that was assigned a new channel as a result of the Commission's incentive auction and repacking process may request a single extension of its construction permit deadline of up to 180 days to complete construction of its post-auction facility.¹ All subsequent requests for additional time to construct are subject to the Commission's tolling provisions of Section 73.3598(b) of the Rules.² The Commission's tolling provisions provide that a construction permit deadline may be tolled under specific circumstances such as acts of God, delays due to administrative or judicial review, or construction that is delayed by any cause of action pending before a court of competent jurisdiction relating to any necessary local, state, or federal requirement for the construction or operation of the station, including any zoning or environmental requirement.³ If a station does not qualify for tolling under these criteria, good cause may exist to waive the Commission's tolling provisions and tolling may still be warranted where the licensee can demonstrate that "rare and exceptional circumstances" prevented construction by the station's construction permit expiration date.⁴

Nexstar requests waiver of the tolling rule and tolling of its construction permit for its post-incentive auction channel facilities to March 13, 2020. KNWA is currently operating on its post-auction

¹ See 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5).

² See 47 CFR § 73.3700(b)(5)(i) citing 47 CFR § 73.3598(b).

³ *Id.*

⁴ See 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Streamlining of Mass Media Applications, Rules, and Processes, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 14 FCC Rcd 17525, 17542, para. 42 (1999) (recognizing that there may be "rare and exceptional circumstances" beyond the control of the licensee that do not fall under the tolling provisions, but "which would warrant the tolling of construction time." The Commission concluded that in such "limited circumstances," it would entertain requests for waiver of its "strict tolling provisions"); *Northeast Cellular Telephone Co. v. FCC*, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990) and *WAIT Radio v. FCC*, 418 F.2d 1153, 1159 (D.C. Cir. 1969), *cert. denied*, 409 U.S. 1072 (1972); 47 CFR § 1.3 (waiver for good cause shown).

channel with temporary facilities.⁵ On November 13, 2019, KNWA was granted a waiver of the tolling rule and its construction permit was tolled to November 30, 2019.⁶ Nexstar states that, due to weather delays and unavailability of its tower rigging, Nexstar has been unable to complete construction of the Station's post-auction channel facilities by its current deadline. Nexstar now anticipates that the final install will be complete by or before March 13, 2020. Accordingly, Nexstar seeks a waiver of the tolling rules and tolling of its construction permit deadline to March 13, 2020.

Discussion. Upon review of the facts and circumstances presented, we find that sufficient circumstances exist to waive Section 73.3598(b) of the Rules and to toll the expiration date of the Station's construction permit to March 13, 2020. We find that Nexstar was unable to complete construction of its post-auction channel facilities due to weather and tower rigging crew delays. We also find that grant of Nexstar's waiver and tolling request is not likely to negatively impact the overall transition schedule and will not cause interference to other stations. KNWA has already ceased operation on its pre-auction channel and initiated temporary operations on its post-auction channel. To the extent some viewers are unable to receive KNWA's signal while it operates using its interim facility, we believe that Nexstar has every incentive to ensure viewers are fully informed about the Station's transition plan. Ultimately, we conclude that the public interest will be served by grant of waiver and tolling of the Station's construction permit.

We remind Nexstar that pursuant to the Spectrum Act, the Station is eligible for reimbursement from the TV Broadcast Relocation Fund (Fund) of costs "reasonably incurred . . . in order for the licensee to relocate its television service from one channel to the other."⁷ Additional expenses incurred, such as expenses resulting from changes in a Station's transition plan that are not related to the post-incentive auction channel change, may not be reimbursable from the Fund.

The above facts considered, Nexstar Broadcasting, Inc.'s request for waiver of the Commission's tolling provisions **IS GRANTED**. The construction permit (LMS File No. 0000027617) for KNWA-TV, Rogers, Arkansas **IS TOLLED to March 13, 2020**. Grant of this tolling waiver does not permit KNWA to recommence operation on its pre-auction channel. We also remind Nexstar that any subsequent requests for tolling of its construction permit deadline will be subject to the Commission's tolling provisions.⁸

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Kreisman
Chief, Video Division
Media Bureau

cc (via electronic mail): Christine Reilly, Esq.

⁵ See LMS File No. 0000069351 and 0000092567.

⁶ See LMS File No. 0000085033.

⁷ 47 U.S.C. § 1452(b)(4)(A)(i). See also *Incentive Auction R&O*, 29 FCC Rcd at 6821, para. 622 ("The appropriate scope of 'costs reasonably incurred' necessarily will have to be decided on a case-by-case basis.").

⁸ See 47 § CFR 73.3598(b).