



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

April 12, 2021

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Chesapeake Television Licensee, LLC

C/O Miles S. Mason, Esq.

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

1200 Seventeenth Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20036

Channel 24, Hunts Valley, MD

Facility ID No. 160246

File No. 0000130219

Dear Licensee:

This letter is in reference to the above captioned application for experimental authority (STA) filed by Chesapeake Television Licensee, LLC (CTL), licensee of full power television station WBFF, Baltimore, Maryland, on February 24, 2021.¹ For the reasons below, we grant CTL's request for a Low Power Television (LPTV) experimental authorization pursuant to the Commission's experimental licensing rules.²

CTL requests experimental authority to operate an LPTV station on channel 24 to test receive devices such as the new "Mark One" ATSC 3.0 smartphone being developed by ONE Media 3.0, LLC (ONE Media), a subsidiary of Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. (Sinclair) and sister company to CTL. Specifically, CTL will test broadcast application(s) used to sync programming and data applications to the mobile interface in the new Mark One phone. The proposed testing site will be the corporate headquarters of CTL, its parent company, Sinclair, and ONE Media, which also houses the ONE Media Labs. According to CTL, the ONE Media Labs facility is designed, furnished, and staffed to test ATSC 3.0 mobile connectivity and convergence of over-the-air and over-the-top technologies among other ATSC 3.0 software and hardware applications. The STA transmitter/antenna facilities collocated with the ONE Media Labs will enable easier access to the data generated in the testing without the need for additional connectivity between distant alternative transmission sites.

In its supplement, CTL also explains it is requesting the STA to conduct temporary experimental operations to understand the performance of a very low power ATSC 3.0 transmission source (e.g., a broadcast radio head or "BRH") and the anticipated positive impact of BRHs on indoor reception and reception in other difficult environments with small mobile/portable devices. According to CTL, these BRHs are designed for multiple single frequency network ("SFN"), also referred to as "micro-SFNs" or "gap-fillers," CTL further states that the proposed low-power testing cannot be conducted in the same manner from its full-power television station, WBFF(TV), using the existing ATSC 3.0 procedures because it would be difficult, if not impossible, to characterize the proposed low power signal individually without turning off the high-power signal(s), which itself would likely require an engineering STA and cause disruption to viewers.

CTL provides an engineering analysis demonstrating that operation on channel 24 is not predicted to cause more than 0.5% new interference to any other licensed facilities, or more than 2% new

¹ CTL amended the application the same day to provide supplementary information.

² 47 CFR §§ 5.201 *et seq.*

interference to any licensed low power television facilities. After a thorough review of the technical specifications, we are persuaded that no interference to other licensed television stations is likely to occur from the proposed operation. We therefore conclude that the public interest would be served by grant of CTL's request for a period of six-months since the information obtained from the experiment may be valuable to broadcasters' understanding of how the ATSC 3.0 standard can be used for new and innovative broadcast services (video and non-video), specifically the anticipated positive impact of BRHs on indoor reception and reception in other difficult environments with small mobile/portable devices.³

Accordingly, the experimental authority requested by CTL for an experimental low power television broadcast station on channel 24 **IS GRANTED** for a period of **six months** from the date of this letter, subject to the provisions of Part 5, Subpart D, any commitments made by CTL in the application, and the following conditions.

1. As required by 47 CFR § 5.207, a report must be filed with any application for renewal of this authorization. The report must contain the required information under the rule as well as the reason that continued experimentation is needed. There is no expectation of renewal. To the extent renewal is not sought, a report containing the information required by 47 CFR § 5.207 must be submitted to the Video Division within thirty days of expiration of the experimental authority.
2. Should any issues or conditions arise during the authorization period that prevent or inhibit the licensee from conducting its experimentation, CTL shall inform the Video Division at the time they occur. If experimentation is to be discontinued prior to the authorization's expiration date, CTL must promptly notify the Video Division of the date it will be terminating its experimentation.
3. Any broadcaster equipment or end-user devices must receive (as applicable) the necessary Commission equipment authorizations prior to use.
4. With ample time before commencing operation, CTL must make a good faith effort to identify and notify health care facilities (e.g., hospitals, nursing homes, *see* 47 CFR 15.242(a)(1)), within the experimental station's service area that may potentially be affected by its operation.
5. This experimental authorization has been issued on a non-interference basis (e.g., 47 CFR § 5.84) and may be immediately modified or terminated if the operation causes interference to any other licensed user (e.g., licensed broadcast operations or licensed wireless microphones) or if CTL fails to comply with any conditions of grant. The Video Division, without the consent of CTL, may also modify the terms of or terminate this authorization for any other reason upon written notice to CTL.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kevin R. Harding
Deputy Chief, Video Division
Media Bureau

cc: Kathleah Obrero

³ CTL states that it expects the proposed testing will be completed in six months or less, and that the channel 24 transmitter will ultimately be incorporated into a SFN following the full-power stations' ATSC 3.0 launch in Baltimore, pursuant to the Commission's SFN licensing procedures.