



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 19, 2022

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Chesapeake Television Licensee, LLC

C/O Miles S. Mason, Esq.
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1200 Seventeenth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Channels 24, 25, 28 & 30 Hunts Valley, MD
Facility ID No. 771353
File No. 0000177080

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 December 9, 2021. 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.¹

CTL requests experimental authority to operate a multi-channel experimental LPTV facility to evaluate performance of the ATSC 3.0 broadcast transmission standard in multiple-frequency scenarios. Specifically, CTL proposes to operate the Station using the ATSC 3.0 broadcast transmission standard to run a variety of tests in connection with a multi-phased test project targeted towards the future deployment of Single Frequency Networks (SFNs). 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, its primary goal is to test SFN technologies and scenarios in the context of the ATSC 3.0 use cases and, if it is determined to be useful, to provide guidance to broadcasters and equipment manufacturers for SFN deployments, including in connection with equipment, transmitter placement, power, and connectivity options.

CTL states that the purpose of an SFN is to enhance the already existing signal to improve reception; however, there has been limited real-world testing of ATSC 3.0 in an SFN configuration. According to CTL, the proposed low power testing will assist broadcasters in determining how very low power transmitters can co-exist with high-power neighbor transmitters and serve as a guide for how to mitigate potential power issues or other unwanted products. CTL further states that the proposed low-power testing cannot be conducted in the same manner from CTL's full-power television station (WBFF(TV), Baltimore, MD) or the ATSC 3.0 host station in the market (WNUV(TV), Baltimore, MD) using the existing ATSC 3.0 procedures.

CTL provides an engineering analysis demonstrating that operation on channels 24, 25, 28 & 30 are not predicted to cause more than 0.5% new interference to any other licensed facilities, or more than 2% new 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

¹ 47 CFR §§ 5.201 *et seq.*

experiment may be valuable to broadcasters' understanding of how the ATSC 3.0 standard can be used in multiple-frequency scenarios

Accordingly, the experimental authority requested by CTL for an experimental low power television broadcast station on channels 24, 25, 28 & 30 **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