



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

November 28, 2023

Sent via electronic mail

In reply refer to: 1800B3-CP

Gary S. Smithwick, Esq.
Smithwick & Belendiuk, PC
5028 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.
Suite 301
Washington, DC 20016
gsmithwick@fccworld.com

RE: W248CM, Waynesville, NC
Facility ID No. 155794
Silent since May 10, 2023
Request for Extension of Special
Temporary Authority to Remain Silent

Dear Mr. Smithwick:

This letter concerns the request you filed on November 15, 2023, on behalf of Saga Communications of North Carolina, Inc. (Saga), for extension of Special Temporary Authority (STA) to permit FM Translator Station W248CM to remain silent.

Commission records reflect that Saga stated that Station W248CM went silent on May 10, 2023, for technical reasons. The previous STA was granted on May 19, 2023, and expired on November 18, 2023. Saga requests extension of its STA for continuing technical reasons.

Saga's request is granted. Accordingly, Special Temporary Authority is granted to permit Station W248CM to remain silent until May 10, 2024. **Notwithstanding the grant of this Special Temporary Authority, the broadcast license for Station W248CM will automatically expire as a matter of law if broadcast operations do not resume by 12:01 a.m., May 11, 2024.**¹

Saga is required to notify the Commission when broadcast operations resume.² If Saga does not file the notification of resumption of operations in a timely manner, the license may be subject to cancellation pursuant to section 312(g) of the Communications Act, as amended.³

The station's silent status does not suspend the licensee's obligation to comply with all other relevant Commission rules, including the filing, when appropriate, of applications for renewal of

¹ See 47 U.S.C. § 312(g). The date set in this letter for the license expiration supersedes any notice generated from the FCC Licensing and Management System (LMS).

² In addition, periods of operation pursuant to this STA shall be recorded in the station's records (see 47 CFR §§ 73.1820 (AM/FM/TV), 73.877 (LPM) and/or 74.1281 (FM translator)). The records shall include start/stop dates and times of such operation. These log entries must be maintained for a minimum of two years as specified in 47 CFR § 73.1840(a), unless a longer retention period is requested by the staff. Periods of operation may be subject to independent verification that they in fact occurred.

³ *Id.* In addition to filing a notification of resumption of operations electronically on the date operations resume, notification of resumption must also be emailed to Denise.Williams@FCC.gov.

broadcast license. It is imperative to the safety of air navigation that any prescribed painting and illumination of the station's tower shall be maintained until removed.⁴

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria McCauley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

Victoria McCauley
Attorney, Audio Division
Media Bureau

⁴ See 47 C.F.R. §§ 17.6 and 73.1740(a)(4).