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Jerry Miller (of counsel)

June 15, 2023

Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

ATTN: Media Bureau

Re: **Request to Extend Experimental Authorization**
Midwest Communications, Inc.
Station WPBG(FM) Peoria, IL (Fac. 42114)
FD – 20220622AAA

Dear Madam Secretary:

On behalf of Midwest Communications, Inc., ("MWC"), licensee of broadcast station WPBG(FM), Peoria, IL, FACID 42114, and pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §5.203, the Commission is respectfully requested to extend the above-captioned experimental authorization for station WPBG(FM) to conduct testing of hybrid digital FM in-band on-channel (IBOC) operation using asymmetric power levels in the digital sidebands.

An engineering report detailing the experimentation is attached.

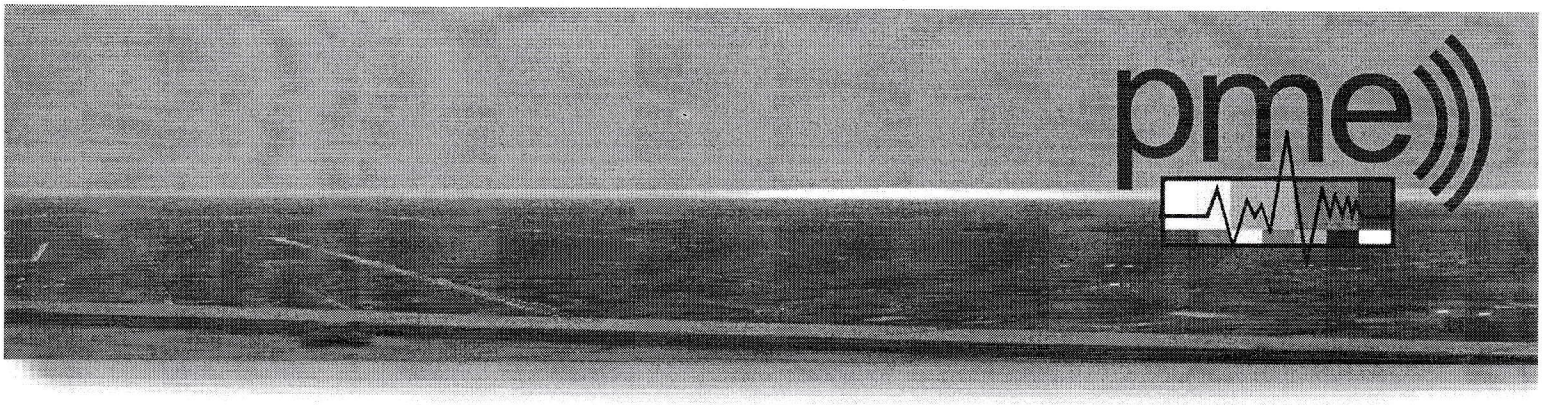
MWC has authorized undersigned counsel to certify on its behalf that no party to the application is subject to a denial of federal benefits, including FCC benefits, pursuant to §5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1998, 21 U.S.C. §862.

Please direct any questions concerning this matter to undersigned counsel.

Sincerely,

John S. Neely

Enc.
cc: Priscilla Lee (Media Bureau) – via email



On June 22nd 2021, WPBG(FM) was granted an experimental permit to continue operation of hybrid digital FM in-band on-channel (IBOC) operation using asymmetric power levels in the digital sidebands. This experimental authority allowed station WPBG(FM) to operate with lower sideband (LSB) digital effective radiated power (ERP) of -14 dBc and upper sideband (USB) digital ERP of -10 dBc. On

WPBG(FM) has operated with these digital power levels continuously from April 6, 2016, to the present day with short periods of symmetrical operation for comparison. During this testing period, including the past year, WPBG(FM) staff has continued to conduct listening tests to determine the effect that asymmetrical power level operation has had on analog and digital reception.

These tests were conducted with a variety of receivers including OEM and aftermarket automotive radios, desktop radios, portable radios, and tuners. Locations of the tests were local, distant and fringe coverage areas roughly corresponding to the 7060, 50 and 40 dB contours.

With more and more HD radios available in newer model automobiles WPBG(FM) has continued to survey listeners to determine the extent of HD listening and to see if the experimental operation was causing any noticeable degradation of the station's analog signal.

The results of these tests and surveys indicate a substantial increase in HD listening to all 4 HD audio sub-channels. Without issues with WPBG(FM) analog reception in any of the station's coverage area whether operating symmetrical or asymmetrical. There is continued indication of more robust digital coverage in all areas when operating with upper sideband (USB) digital ERP of -10 dBc.

We have received no reports and are unaware of any interference to any first adjacent stations on 93.5mhz. The conclusion is that asymmetrical operation has had no detrimental effect on WPBG(FM)'s analog operation and has, in fact, improved digital coverage over symmetrical operation.

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