

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
**445 TWELFTH STREET SW**  
**WASHINGTON DC 20554**

**MEDIA BUREAU**  
**AUDIO DIVISION**  
**APPLICATION STATUS:** (202) 418-2730  
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January 6, 2009

Wayne North  
Horizon Broadcasting Company  
Box 250  
Ozark, Alabama 36360

Re: WQLS (AM), Ozark, Alabama  
Facility Identification Number: 63946  
Horizon Broadcasting Company  
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Mr. North:

This is in reference to the request filed December 30, 2008, on behalf of Horizon Broadcasting Company ("HBC"). HBC requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate Station WQLS with reduced power.<sup>1</sup> In support of the request, HBC states that the station was destroyed by fire, has been silent for 11 months and must return to the air before January 28, 2009. HBC requests STA for operation with reduced power during daytime and critical hours.

Section 73.1560(d), which governs reduced power operation, states:

In the event it becomes technically impossible to operate at authorized power, a broadcast station may operate at reduced power for a period of not more than 30 days without specific authority from the FCC. If operation at reduced power will exceed 10 consecutive days, notification must be made to the FCC in Washington, DC, Attention: Audio Division (radio) or Video Division (television), Media Bureau, not later than the 10th day of the lower power operation. In the event that normal power is restored within the 30 day period, the licensee must notify the FCC of the date that normal operation was restored. If causes beyond the control of the licensee prevent restoration of the authorized power within 30 days, a request for Special Temporary Authority (see Section 73.1635) must be made to the FCC in Washington, DC for additional time as may be necessary.

Our review indicates that the request complies with Section 73.1560(d). However, the Commission has not been notified of the station's silence, nor has a request for authority to remain silent been filed, as required by Section 73.1740(a)(4). STA will be granted, with conditions.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. Station WQLS may operate with reduced power. It will be necessary to further reduce power or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. HBC must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored.<sup>2</sup> HBC must use whatever means are necessary to protect workers and the public from

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<sup>1</sup> WQLS is licensed for operation on 1210 kHz with 10 kilowatts daytime (5 kilowatts critical hours) and 0.003 kilowatt nighttime, employing a nondirectional antenna (ND-3-U).

<sup>2</sup> See 47 CFR §§ 73.45(c), 73.51, 73.54, 73.61(b).

exposure to radio frequency radiation in excess of the Commission's exposure guidelines. *See* 47 CFR § 1.1310. The authority granted herein is without prejudice as to whatever action the Commission may take with regard to noncompliance with Section 73.1740(a)(4).

This authority expires on **July 6, 2009**.

Notwithstanding the grant of this STA or the expiration date specified herein, the station's license will expire as a matter of law upon twelve consecutive months of silence. *See* Pub. Law No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56, Section 403(1) (1996) and *Order, Silent Station Authorizations*, FCC 96-218 (released May 17, 1996). *See also Public Notice*, Expedited Processing of Applications Filed by Silent Stations, DA 96-818 (May 22, 1996). The licensee must notify the Audio Division immediately upon resumption of broadcasting.

**STA Advisory:** Section 309(f) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, authorizes the Commission to grant STA in cases of "extraordinary circumstances requiring temporary authorizations in the public interest and when delay in the institution of the temporary operations would seriously prejudice the public interest." However, Section 309(f) is not a means by which a licensee/permittee may circumvent established processing procedures which require the filing of an application, nor is it a means by which a broadcaster may enhance his facility or make operation more convenient for the broadcaster. Stations operating with less than licensed facilities under temporary authorities can be viewed as receiving the benefit of a larger protection area than that in which they are currently providing service.

Accordingly, Special Temporary Authorities by nature are to be temporary and are not intended for extended use. Licensees of stations operating under temporary authorities are reminded that timely restoration of permanent facilities is the responsibility of the licensee and should be undertaken expeditiously. Any request for extension of special temporary authorities carries an increased burden with each subsequent request.

Therefore, requests for extension of STA will be granted only where the licensee can show that one or more of the following criteria have been met:

- Restoration of licensed facilities is complete and testing is underway;
- Substantial progress has been made during the most recent STA period toward restoration of licensed operation; or
- No progress has been made during the most recent STA period for reasons clearly beyond the licensee's control, and the licensee has taken all possible steps to expeditiously resolve the problem.

Sincerely,



Charles N. Miller, Engineer  
Audio Division  
Media Bureau

cc: Horizon Broadcasting Company