## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION 445 Twelfth Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

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In re: Request for Experimental Authority Board of Education of the City of Atlanta WABE(FM), Atlanta, GA Facility ID No.: 3538

Dear Counsel:

The staff has under consideration the request received on November 16, 2006, for experimental authority to transmit a hybrid digital signal incorporating multiple digital channels. The experimental authority is requested pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 73.1510 to allow the station to test multiple digital channels within its service area.

WABE proposes to test a modified version of the hybrid IBOC system which the Commission has authorized for interim use.<sup>1</sup> The IBOC system under test, known as "*Tomorrow Radio<sup>SM</sup>*," splits the digital bitstream into multiple channels. The hybrid signal will be transmitted via the station's authorized antenna, and will not require a change in the station's authorized ERP.

WABE states that its test program may include operation in extended hybrid modes. In the extended hybrid modes, the digital sidebands are extended toward the host station's analog carrier by as much as 50 kHz relative to the occupied bandwidth of the IBOC system authorized for interim use by the Commission.

Accordingly, the requested experimental authority for the hybrid digital operation **including all extended hybrid modes** described above IS HEREBY GRANTED. This authority is specifically conditioned on the lack of objectionable interference. A report detailing the methodology employed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Radio stations do not require experimental authority for normal hybrid IBOC operations. See Digital Audio Broadcasting Systems and Their Impact on the Terrestrial Radio Broadcast Service, 17 FCC Rcd 19990 (2002) ("IBOC Order").

and the results obtained must be submitted within ninety days following the conclusion of the experimental operation pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 73.1510(d). A comprehensive report of Tomorrow Radio<sup>SM</sup> test results may be submitted in lieu of reports by individual stations. This experimental authority expires on December 17, 2007. Any request for extension of this authority should be filed at least thirty days prior to this expiration date. Additionally, such a request must include an interim version of the aforementioned report that details the progress of the experimental program as of the filing date.

Sincerely,

Ann Gallagher

Audio Division Media Bureau