

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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December 18, 2009

Mark J. Prak, Esq.
Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard, LLP
Box 1800
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Re: Hearst Radio, Inc.
WBAL (AM), Baltimore, Maryland
Facility Identification Number: 65679
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Counsel:

This is in reference to the request filed December 8, 2009, on behalf of Hearst Radio, Inc. ("Hearst"). Hearst requests extension of the special temporary authority ("STA") granted on June 29, 2009, to operate Station WBAL during nighttime hours with parameters at variance and/or reduced power while maintaining monitor points within licensed limits, and with a nondirectional antenna and reduced power.¹ In support of the request, Hearst states that, in the course of preparing an application for direct measurement of power following replacement of the station's nighttime phasor and antenna tuning units, it discovered that a correction of the registered tower heights was necessary. Hearst states that it is waiting for FAA approval of the corrections and modification of the registrations.²

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.

¹ WBAL is licensed for operation on 1090 kHz with 50 kilowatts daytime and 50 kilowatts nighttime, employing a directional antenna during nighttime hours only (DA-N-U).

² Note that any change in the electrical heights of the radiators necessitates the filing of an application for construction permit.

Our review indicates that the licensee has been prevented from restoring licensed operation due to causes beyond its control and has taken all possible steps to expeditiously resolve the problem. Thus, extension of STA is warranted.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. Station WBAL may operate during nighttime hours with parameters at variance and/or reduced power while maintaining monitor points within licensed limits. Operation during nighttime hours with a nondirectional antenna and reduced power not to exceed 12.5 kilowatts also is authorized, only as necessary to facilitate the repair work. It will be necessary to further reduce power or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. Hearst must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored.³ Hearst must use whatever means are necessary to protect workers and the public from exposure to radio frequency radiation in excess of the Commission's exposure guidelines. *See* 47 CFR § 1.1310.

This authority expires on **June 18, 2010**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles N. Miller".

Charles N. Miller, Engineer
Audio Division
Media Bureau

cc: Hearst Radio, Inc.

³ *See* 47 CFR §§ 73.45(c), 73.51, 73.54, 73.61(b).