

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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November 17, 2011

Peter Gutmann, Esq.
Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC
1200 Nineteenth Street NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20036

Re: WFNO (AM), Norco, Louisiana
Facility Identification Number: 56559
Sunburst Media-Louisiana, LLC
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Counsel:

This is in reference to the request filed November 16, 2011, on behalf of Sunburst Media-Louisiana, LLC ("SML"). SML requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate Station WFNO with parameters at variance and/or reduced power while maintaining monitor points within licensed limits, and with a temporary nondirectional antenna and reduced power.¹ In support of the request, SML states that the station's antenna system was damaged by flooding and that initial repairs have resulted in unstable operation of the array. SML states that more extensive restoration is needed, which will require removal of each antenna tuning unit.

Section 73.1680 of the Commission's rules provides for operation with emergency antenna facilities following damage to authorized antenna systems, provided that an informal request for continued use of an emergency antenna is filed with the Commission within 24 hours. In particular, Section 73.1680(b)(1) provides that AM stations using an emergency nondirectional antenna in lieu of authorized directional facilities shall operate with power reduced to 25 percent or less of the nominal licensed power, or a higher power, not exceeding licensed power, while insuring that the radiated field strength does not exceed that authorized in any given azimuth. Our review indicates that the proposed STA operation complies with Section 73.1680.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. Station WFNO may operate with parameters at variance and/or reduced power while maintaining monitor points within licensed limits. Operation with a temporary nondirectional antenna and reduced power not to exceed 3 kilowatts daytime² and 0.188 kilowatt nighttime 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

¹ WFNO is licensed for operation on 830 kHz with 5 kilowatts daytime and 0.75 kilowatt nighttime, employing different directional antenna patterns daytime and nighttime (DA-2-U).

² The WFNO daytime standard pattern has a minimum value of 513 mV/m, which corresponds to a nondirectional power of 3 kilowatts using either of the licensed daytime towers as a temporary nondirectional antenna.

interference are received. SML must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored.³ SML 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 **May 17, 2012**.

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: Sunburst Media-Louisiana, LLC

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