

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 TWELFTH STREET SW
WASHINGTON DC 20554

MEDIA BUREAU
AUDIO DIVISION
APPLICATION STATUS: (202) 418-2730
HOME PAGE: www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/

ENGINEER: CHARLES N. (NORM) MILLER
TELEPHONE: (202) 418-2767
FACSIMILE: (202) 418-1410
E-MAIL: charles.miller@fcc.gov

January 23, 2012

Denise B. Moline, Esq.
358 Pines Boulevard
Lake Villa, Illinois 60046

Re: Gerard Media, LLC
WIMS (AM), Michigan City, Indiana
Facility Identification Number: 39383
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Counsel:

This is in reference to the request filed January 20, 2012, on behalf of Gerard Media, LLC ("GML"). GML requests further special temporary authority ("STA") to operate Station WIMS 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, GML states that the nighttime directional antenna system has sustained component damage and is not operable.

Our review indicates that the proposed STA operation complies with the provisions of Section 75.1680, which governs operation with an emergency antenna.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. Station WIMS 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 1.25 kilowatts also is authorized, only as necessary to facilitate directional operation. It will be necessary to further reduce power or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. GML must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored.² GML 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 **July 23, 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

¹ WIMS is licensed for operation on 1420 kHz with 5 kilowatts daytime and 5 kilowatts nighttime, employing different directional antenna patterns daytime and nighttime (DA-2-U).

² *See* 47 CFR §§ 73.45(c), 73.51, 73.54, 73.61(b).

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: Gerard Media, LLC