

**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/](http://www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/)

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July 9, 2012

Todd M. Stansbury, Esq.  
Wiley Rein LLP  
1776 K Street NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Re: WMLS(FM), Grand Marais, Minnesota  
Facility Identification Number: 92306  
Minnesota Public Radio  
Special Temporary Authorization

Dear Counsel:

This is in reference to the request filed July 6, 2012, on behalf of Minnesota Public Radio ("MPR"). MPR requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate Station WMLS with reduced power.<sup>1</sup> In support of the request, MPR states that it is experiencing problems with its antenna system. STA is requested for continued operation with reduced power pending resolution of the matter.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. Station WMLS may continue to operate with reduced power. MPR must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored. MPR 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 **January 9, 2013**.

**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.

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<sup>1</sup> WMLS is licensed for operation on Channel 204C3 (88.7 MHz) with effective radiated power of 6 kilowatts (H&V) and antenna height above average terrain of 194 meters.

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,

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

Charles N. Miller, Engineer  
Audio Division  
Media Bureau

cc: Minnesota Public Radio