

**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/)

**ENGINEER:** Jerome J. Manarchuck  
**TELEPHONE:** (202) 418-7226  
**FACSIMILE:** (202) 418-1410  
**E-MAIL:** [jerome.manarchuck@fcc.gov](mailto:jerome.manarchuck@fcc.gov)

February 27, 2014

Victor Camino, General Manager  
El Camino Communications, LLC  
1606 Central Avenue SE, Suite 104  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

Re: El Camino Communications, LLC  
KKNS (AM), Corrales, New Mexico  
Facility Identification Number: 7050  
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Mr. Camino:

This is in reference to the request filed February 19, 2014, on behalf of El Camino Communications, LLC ("ECC"). ECC requests an extension of the special temporary authority ("STA") that was granted to KKNS(AM) and expired on January 14, 2014. The STA was for station KKNS(AM) to operate with temporary facilities.<sup>1</sup> Since KKNS(AM)'s STA (BSTA-20130529AHC) has already expired, the instant request will be treated as a request for new STA.

Originally, ECC stated that on September 30, 2012 the lease agreement for their transmitter site was terminated. Therefore, KKNS(AM) is requesting STA to continue to operate from a temporary site location, until it is financially able to move to a permanent site location.

STA requests which involve a change in transmitter site must include four critical elements: (1) Loss of the licensed site must be beyond the licensee's control; (2) STA facilities must continue to provide service<sup>2</sup> to the licensed community; (3) STA facilities must maintain, as closely as practicable, the licensed service area<sup>3</sup> without extending it; (4) STA facilities cannot involve the construction of towers intended for permanent use by the station requesting the STA.

Our review indicates that the proposed daytime STA operation with 500 watts complies with the

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<sup>1</sup> KKNS(AM) is licensed for operation on 1310 kHz with 5 kilowatts daytime and 0.5 kilowatt nighttime, employing a directional antenna during nighttime hours only (DAN-U).

<sup>2</sup> For AM - 5 mV/m; for commercial FM - 3.16 mV/m; for noncommercial educational FM - 1.0 mV/m.

<sup>3</sup> For AM - 0.5 mV/m contour; for FM - 1.0 mV/m contour.

foregoing criteria. However, the proposed nighttime operation with 500 watts exceeds the permissible operating power specified in Section 73.1680, which governs, *inter alia*, operation with an emergency nondirectional antenna in lieu of licensed directional facilities. The maximum permissible nighttime power is 25 percent of the licensed directional power; i.e., 0.125 kW. STA will be granted with a nighttime power not to exceed 0.125 kW.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED, with a nighttime power reduction as discussed above. Station KKNS(AM) may operate with the following facilities:

Geographic coordinates	35° 05' 09" N, 106° 42' 01" W (NAD 1927)
Frequency	1310 KHz
Hours of operation	Unlimited
Operating power	Not to exceed 0.5 kW daytime, <b>0.125 kW nighttime</b>
Antenna type	existing 60' vertical metal conduit
Antenna efficiency	less than 282 mV/m/km/kW
Overall height	18.3 meters (60')

It will be necessary to further reduce power or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. ECC must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored.<sup>4</sup> ECC 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. Our review indicates that the circumstances presented warrant grant of STA in order to provide for service to the public. However, in light of the lapse of time between the expiration of the prior STA and the filing of the instant request, the authority granted will not cover the period between the expiration of the prior STA and the filing of the instant request.

In addition, we highly recommend that within the next six months station KKNS(AM) locate a permanent transmitter site and file a 301 application for this location. If KKNS(AM) expects to obtain future STA extensions we will need to see that indeed substantial progress has been made toward obtaining a permanent site location.

This authority expires on **August 26, 2014**.

**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

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<sup>4</sup> *See* 47 CFR §§ 73.45(c), 73.51, 73.61(b).

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,



Jerome J. Manarchuck  
Audio Division  
Media Bureau

cc: El Camino Communications, LLC