

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: Dale Bickel
TELEPHONE: (202) 418-2706
FACSIMILE: (202) 418-1410
E-MAIL: dale.bickel@fcc.gov

June 24, 2014

Clark Parrish
Radio Assist Ministry, Inc.
160 Gooding Street West, Suite B
Twin Falls, ID 83301

Re: W235BQ (FX), Pell City, AL
Radio Assist Ministry, Inc.
Facility Identification Number: 150917
Special Temporary Authority ("STA")
BSTA-20140623ACJ

Dear Mr. Clark:

This is in reference to your request filed June 23, 2014, on behalf of Radio Assist Ministry, Inc. ("RAMI"). RAMI requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate translator station W235BQ at reduced power and a temporary transmitter site, until the licensee can implement its construction permit BMPFT-20140219ABS. You indicate that the station went silent on August 11, 2013 and must return to the air by August 11, 2014 to avoid automatic cancellation of the station's license pursuant to Section 312(g) of the Communications Act.

Our examination of the circumstances shows that translator W235BQ had commenced operations on program test authority for only a short period before the tower collapsed. RAMI did file a license application (BLFT-20130812ADA), but that license application was never granted (and in fact it was dismissed June 23, 2014 via public notice only, no letter sent).

The one year silent station period in Section 312(g) of the Communications Act applies only to licensed stations. W235BQ has never been licensed. Thus, W235BQ is NOT required to commence operation by August 11, 2014 in order to preserve its construction permit.¹

In general the Commission does not issue STA requests for temporary facilities for unlicensed FM stations. There are no compelling circumstances present to warrant an STA. Accordingly, STA request BSTA-20140623ACJ IS DISMISSED.

¹ The staff failed to take this unlicensed status into account when it issued the October 30, 2013 letter granting a silent station STA letter to W235BQ (BLSTA-20130819AFY). Thus, the August 11, 2014 cutoff date referenced in that letter was false and should be disregarded. A short period of operations on program test authority does not start the clock for Section 312(g) of the Communications Act, only the station going silent subsequent to the grant of a license can do that.

RAMI may continue to construct the facility authorized by construction permit BMPFT-20140219ABS, with an expiration date of January 28, 2017. File FCC Form 350, application for license to cover construction permit, once construction is complete.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Bickel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

Dale Bickel,
Senior Engineer
Audio Division
Media Bureau