

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
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**WASHINGTON DC 20554**

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January 30, 2015

Gary S. Smithwick, Esq.  
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5028 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 301  
Washington, DC 20016

Re: Saga Communications, Inc.  
WNAX(AM), Yankton, South Dakota  
Facility Identification Number: 57846  
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Counsel:

This is in reference to the request filed January 23, 2015, on behalf of Saga Communications, Inc. ("SCI"). SCI requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate station WNAX(AM) with temporary facilities.<sup>1</sup> In support of the request, SCI states that on January 16, 2015 WNAX(AM) experienced a phasor contactor switch failure rendering the nighttime directional pattern inoperative. Therefore, SCI requests STA to operate from the station's non-directional daytime tower with 1.25 kilowatts of power.

Section 73.1680 of the Commission's rules provide 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) states that AM stations may use a horizontal or vertical wire or a nondirectional vertical element of a directional antenna as an emergency antenna. AM stations using an emergency nondirectional antenna or a horizontal or vertical wire pursuant to this section, in lieu of authorized directional facilities, shall operate with power reduced to 25% 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 for the corresponding hours of directional operation.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. Station WNAX(AM) may operate with emergency non-directional antenna and reduced power not to exceed 1.25 kilowatt during nighttime hours. It will be necessary to further reduce or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. SCI 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.

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<sup>1</sup> WNAX(AM) is licensed for operation on 570 kHz with 5 kilowatts daytime and nighttime, employing a directional antenna pattern at night (DAN-U).

This authority expires on **April 30, 2015**.

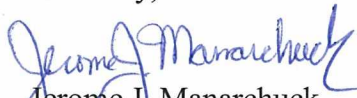
**STA Advisory:** Section 309(f) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, authorizes the Commission to grant STA in cases of "extraordinary circumstances requiring temporary authorizations in the public interest and when delay in the institution of the temporary operations would seriously prejudice 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,

  
Jerome J. Manarchuck  
Audio Division  
Media Bureau

cc: Saga Communications, Inc.