

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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October 9, 2015

Plymouth Rock Broadcasting Co. Inc.
17 Columbus Road
Plymouth, MA 02360

Re: Plymouth Rock Broadcasting Co. Inc.
WPLM(AM), Plymouth, Massachusetts
Facility Identification Number: 52837
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Applicant:

This is in reference to the request filed October 6, 2015, on behalf of Plymouth Rock Broadcasting Co. Inc. ("PRB"). PRB requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate station WPLM(AM) with emergency antenna facilities pursuant to Section 73.1680.¹ In support of the request, PRB states that there has been an active season of lightning and the operating parameters of the station have possibly been affected by isocoupler damage. In addition, the station has also been told that there may be transmission line damage for one of the lines feeding one of the AM towers from the phasor.

Thus, the station is requesting an STA to operate with emergency non-directional facilities. Specifically, PRB proposes to operate WPLM(AM) non-directionally from tower #4 of its array with a daytime power of 1 kilowatt and nighttime power of 0.1 kilowatt.

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) provides that AM stations using an emergency non-directional antenna 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.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. Station WPLM(AM)) may operate with an emergency non-directional antenna and with a reduced daytime power of 1 kilowatt and a nighttime power of 0.1 kilowatt. It will be necessary to further reduce or cease operation if

¹ WPLM(AM)) is licensed for operation on 1390 kHz with 5 kilowatts daytime and 5 kilowatts nighttime, employing different directional antenna patterns (DA-2-U).

complaints of interference are received. PRB must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored.² PRB 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 **April 7, 2016**.

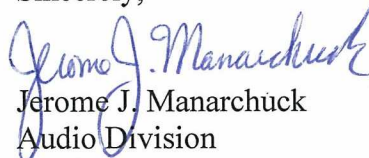
STA Advisory: Section 309(f) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, authorizes the Commission to grant STA in cases of "extraordinary circumstances requiring temporary authorizations in the public interest and when delay in the institution of the temporary operations would seriously prejudice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

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