

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

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December 23, 2015

Saga Communications of Iowa, LLC  
73 Kercheval Avenue  
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

Re: Saga Communications of Iowa, LLC  
KRNT(AM), Des Moines, Iowa  
Facility Identification Number: 58534  
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Applicant:

This is in reference to the request filed December 22, 2015, on behalf of Saga Communications of Iowa, LLC ("SCI"). SCI requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate station KRNT(AM) with emergency antenna facilities.<sup>1</sup> In support of the request, SCI states that the station experienced multiple mica capacitor failures rendering the nighttime directional pattern inoperative. Therefore, the station is requesting STA to operate during nighttime hours, with an emergency antenna consisting of a non-directional vertical element of the licensed antenna and at reduced power of 1.25 kilowatts.

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 KRNT(AM) may operate during nighttime hours from tower #1 of the nighttime array with a reduced power of 1.25 kilowatts. It will be necessary to further reduce or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. SCI must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored.<sup>2</sup> 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> KRNT(AM) is licensed for operation on 1350 kHz with a daytime power of 5 kilowatts and a nighttime power of 5 kilowatts, employing a directional antenna pattern at night (DAN-U).

<sup>2</sup> See 47 CFR §§ 73.45(c), 73.51, 73.54, 73.61(b).

This authority expires on **June 21, 2016**.

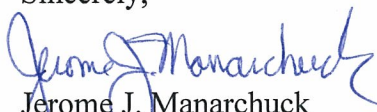
**STA Advisory:** Section 309(f) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, authorizes the Commission to grant STA in cases of "extraordinary circumstances requiring temporary authorizations in the public interest and when delay in the institution of the temporary operations would seriously prejudice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