

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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April 14, 2016

Gulf Coast Broadcasting Co., Inc.
P.O. Box 679
Orange Beach, AL 36561

Re: Gulf Coast Broadcasting Co., Inc.
WABF(AM), Fairhope, AL
Facility Identification Number: 32848
Special Temporary Authorization

Dear Applicant:

This is in reference to the request filed March 9, 2016, on behalf of Gulf Coast Broadcasting Co., Inc. ("GCB"). GCB requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate station WABF(AM) from an alternate transmitter site.¹ The proposed site is the licensed site of AM station WERM(AM).

In support of its request, GCB states that it has lost its licensed transmitter site due to local zoning changes. Therefore it requests STA to operate from the WERM(AM) transmitter site which is located 17.5 miles from the licensed WABF(AM) site. WABF(AM) requests an STA to operate non-directionally from tower #1 of the WERM(AM) nighttime array. A daytime power of 1 kilowatt is proposed.

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 to the licensed community; (3) STA facilities must maintain, as closely as practicable, the licensed service area² without extending it; (4) STA facilities cannot involve the construction of towers intended for permanent use by the station requesting the STA.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED, however WABF(AM) will be limited to a daytime power of 250 watts. Station WABF(AM) may operate with the following

¹ WABF(AM) is licensed for operation on 1220 kHz with 1 kilowatt of daytime power and 0.03 kilowatt of nighttime power, employing a nondirectional antenna (ND-1-U).

² For AM - 0.5 mV/m contour; for FM - 1.0 mV/m contour.

facilities:

Geographic coordinates	30° 43' 11" N, 88° 04' 16" W (NAD 1927)
Frequency	1220 KHz
Hours of operation	Daytime only
Operating power	Not to exceed 250 watts daytime
Antenna type	Existing WERM(AM) tower
Electrical height of radiator	76.2°
Overall height	52 meters

It will be necessary to further reduce power or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. GCB 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 **October 11, 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: John C. Trent, Esq. (via email only)