

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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September 8, 2016

Texas Public Radio
8401 Datapoint Drive, Suite 800
San Antonio, TX 78229-5903

Re: KTPR (FM), Snyder, TX
Texas Public Radio
Facility Identification Number: 172898
Special Temporary Authority
BSTA-20160822ABI

Dear Licensee:

This is in reference to the request filed August 22, 2016, on behalf of Texas Public Radio ("TPR"). TPR requests Special Temporary Authority (STA) to operate at its licensed transmitter site with reduced power and antenna height, because the tower owner did not reconstruct the tower to its original height. TPR must return KTPR to operating status **no later than December 26, 2016** to avoid automatic cancellation of the station's license pursuant to Section 312(g) of the Communications Act.

An STA for the temporary facilities proposed is warranted, and the STA IS GRANTED. We expect that TPR shall continue the temporary operation, as described in the STA request, without interruption, through the term of this STA period or until the licensee restores licensed operation. Extension requests for this STA may be granted by the staff if circumstances warrant.

When KTPR commences operations pursuant to this STA, the licensee (or its representative) shall confirm the start of STA operations via an e-mail to Dale Bickel, dale.bickel@fcc.gov. This date will be entered into the Commission's CDBS database to indicate that the station has resumed broadcasting. KTPR must also file a Notice of Resumption of Operations in the CDBS electronic filing system.

TPR must use whatever means are necessary to protect workers and the public from radiofrequency exposure in excess of the Commission's exposure guidelines. See 47 CFR § 1.1310.

This authority expires on March 7, 2017.

We remind the licensee that the station's license will expire as a matter of law upon twelve consecutive months of silence [ending **December 26, 2016**], notwithstanding the grant of the present STA. See Pub. Law No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56, Section 403(1) (1996) and Order, *Silent Station Authorizations*, FCC 96-218 (released May 17, 1996). See also Public Notice, *Expedited*

Processing of Applications Filed by Silent Stations, DA 96-818 (May 22, 1996). Please be aware that unauthorized operations – operations with facilities not authorized by a current STA or license – do not count as a resumption of operations within one year for the purposes of Section 312(g) of the Communications Act, and cannot be used to avoid the consequences of Section 312(g). See *A-O Broadcasting Corporation*, FCC 08-10, 23 FCC Rcd 603, released January 8, 2008.

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,



Dale Bickel
Senior Engineer
Audio Division
Media Bureau

cc: Brad Deutsch (via e-mail only)