

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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September 22, 2016

Monticello Media LLC
C/O Media Services Group
149 Roscoe Blvd. South
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Re: Monticello Media LLC
WCHV(AM), Charlottesville, Virginia
Facility Identification Number: 19838
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Applicant:

This is in reference to the request filed September 15, 2016, on behalf of Monticello Media LLC ("MML"). MML requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate station WCHV(AM) non-directionally and with reduced power facilities.¹ In support of the request, MML states that due to the technical failure of certain elements of the phasing/coupling equipment and antenna tuning units, the station's facilities are unable to operate in directional mode. Therefore, WCHV(AM) requests an STA to operate non-directionally from tower #3 of its array with 25% of its licensed 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 non-directional vertical element of a directional antenna as an emergency antenna. AM stations using an emergency non-directional 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 WCHV(AM) may operate non-directionally from tower #3 of the array with a daytime power not to exceed 1.25 kilowatts and a nighttime power not to exceed 0.625 kilowatt. It will be necessary to further reduce or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. MML 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.

¹ WCHV(AM) is licensed for operation on 1260 kHz with a daytime power of 5 kilowatts and a nighttime power of 2.5 kilowatts, employing different directional antenna patterns (DA2-U).

This authority expires on **March 21, 2017**.

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: Lewis J. Paper, Esq. (via email only)