

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
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November 30, 2016

Abacoa Radio Corporation  
P.O. Box 1055  
Arecibo, PR 00613-1055

Re: Abacoa Radio Corporation  
WMIA(AM), Arecibo, PR  
Facility Identification Number: 254  
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Applicant:

This is in reference to the request filed November 29, 2016, on behalf of Abacoa Radio Corporation ("ARC"). ARC requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate station WMIA(AM) with temporary facilities.<sup>1</sup> In support of the request, ARC states that on November 28, 2016 WMIA(AM)'s single, licensed, non-directional guyed tower collapsed in a catastrophic failure. The licensee has returned to the air temporarily at the licensed transmitter site using an emergency wire antenna. Therefore, ARC requests STA to continue to operate both daytime and nighttime with the emergency wire antenna.

Specifically, WMIA(AM) is currently using a 208 foot long horizontal wire mounted between 2 wooden poles. ARC states that the elevation of the wire is uniformly supported 30 feet above ground level on level ground. The station is currently operating with a daytime and nighttime power of 500 watts.

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 filled 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 nondirectional vertical element of a directional antenna as an emergency antenna. AM stations using an emergency nondirectional 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

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<sup>1</sup> WMIA(AM) is licensed for operation on 1070 kHz with a daytime power of 0.5 kilowatt and a nighttime power of 2.5 kilowatts, employing a non-directional antenna pattern (ND1-U).

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 GRANTED. Station WMIA(AM) may continue to operate with the following facilities:

Geographic coordinates	18° 27' 33" N, 66° 45' 20" W (NAD 1927)
Frequency	1070 kHz
Hours of operation	Daytime and Nighttime
Operating power	500 watts (daytime and nighttime)
Antenna type	208 foot long wire antenna

It will be necessary to further reduce power or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. WMIA(AM) must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored. WMIA(AM) 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 **May 29, 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: Christopher D. Imlay, Esq.