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**BY HAND DELIVERY**

MAR - 9 2017

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission  
Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Request for Extension of Experimental Authorization  
WUSFM(FM), Tampa, Florida (Facility ID No. 69122)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to Section 5.203 of the Commission's rules and the Audio Division's letter grant of April 13, 2016 (File No. 20160407AAY), the University of South Florida, the licensee of the above-referenced station, by counsel, hereby submits this request for a 12-month extension of the experimental authority previously granted which has permitted WUSF(FM) to conduct testing of hybrid FM in-band on-channel ("IBOC") operation using asymmetric power levels in the digital sidebands.

The licensee's current authority permits WUSF(FM) to test digital operation using the IBOC technology with digital effective radiated powers of -14 dBc on the upper sideband and -11 dBc on the lower sideband.

Since grant of the station's continued experimental authority in April 2016, the licensee has conducted additional interference studies to ensure that the experimental authority does not adversely affect any area stations. Stations that might be affected by WUSF(FM)'s increased digital power are WUCF, Channel 210C3, Orlando, Florida, and WKSG, Channel 208C2, Cedar Creek, Florida. During the past year of asymmetrical digital operation, WUSF(FM) did not receive any complaints from any station currently on the air. Prior to operating with increased digital power asymmetrically, listeners of WUSF(FM) who had purchased HD radios complained that there were dead areas within the station's protected coverage area. After the digital power increase, these same listeners reported solid reception. The increased power continues to ensure better reception to the station's listeners within its contour. Members of WUSF(FM)'s technical staff have also conducted empirical testing by driving around the WUSF(FM) service area. This testing has found that the digital cliff has been significantly extended, providing improved digital coverage. The HD radio used for these tests was an after-market digital radio. No formal studies beyond these driving tests were conducted during the past year.

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In view of the foregoing, WUSF(FM) respectfully submits that the public interest would be well served by an extension of the station's experimental authority to continue operations with asymmetrical power levels in the digital sidebands.

The licensee certifies that neither it nor any party to this request is subject to denial of federal benefits pursuant to Section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, 21 U.S.C. Section 862.

If there are any questions concerning this matter, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,



John M. Burgett

cc: Susan Crawford, FCC (by e-mail)