

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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May 11, 2017

Alpha Media Licensee LLC
1211 SW 5th Ave.
Suite 750
Portland, OR 97204

Re: Alpha Media Licensee LLC
WHAG(AM), Halfway, Maryland
Facility Identification Number: 23466
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Applicant:

This is in reference to the request filed April 28, 2017, on behalf of Alpha Media Licensee LLC ("Alpha"). Alpha requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate station WHAG(AM) with emergency antenna facilities.¹ In support of the request, WHAG(AM) states that due to a fire in the tower #1 building which caused transmission line, phasing equipment and other damage, the station is currently operating at reduced power from one of the towers. Therefore, WHAG(AM) requests an STA to continue to operate non-directionally from a single tower in the array with reduced power, while repairs can be performed on the directional antenna system.

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 WHAG(AM) may operate

¹ WHAG(AM) is licensed for operation on 1410 kHz with a daytime power of 1 kilowatt and a nighttime power of 0.099 kilowatt, employing directional antenna patterns during daytime and nighttime hours (DA2-U).

non-directionally during daytime hours with a power not to exceed 0.25 kilowatt and during nighttime hours with a power not to exceed 0.025 kilowatt. It will be necessary to further reduce or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. Alpha 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 **November 7, 2017**.

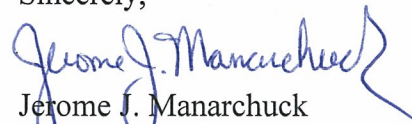
STA Advisory: Section 309(f) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, authorizes the Commission to grant STA in cases of "extraordinary circumstances requiring temporary authorizations in the public interest and when delay in the institution of the temporary operations would seriously prejudice 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: Gregory L. Masters, Esq. (via email only)