

Rhode Island Public Radio
NCE-FM Broadcast Station WUMD
Facility ID No. 163899
North Dartmouth, Massachusetts
May 2017

Justification for Special Temporary Authority re: Main Studio Location

Rhode Island Public Radio, Incorporated (“RIPR”), approved assignee of the license of Noncommercial Educational FM Station WUMD, Facility ID No. 163899, North Dartmouth, Massachusetts,¹ hereby requests special temporary authority to operate the station from RIPR’s existing studios in Providence, Rhode Island, until modified facilities are constructed and licensed.² To the extent this request comprehends a waiver of Section 73.1125(a) of the Commission’s rules, it is respectfully requested. The following information is provided in support of this request.

WUMD is licensed to University of Massachusetts, and is operated by students and faculty from studios and transmitter site located on the campus of the university in North Dartmouth, Massachusetts. The studios and transmitter site must be relocated pursuant to the terms of the parties’ agreement for purchase and sale of the station.

RIPR operates Rhode Island’s public radio service from studios located in Providence, Rhode Island.³ It will program WUMD from its Providence studios. RIPR proposes to relocate the WUMD transmitter site from the university campus to an existing structure in Tiverton, Rhode Island, and to change the community of license from North Dartmouth to Newport, Rhode Island.⁴

RIPR’s Providence studios are 26.27 miles from the reference coordinates of the present community of license, North Dartmouth, and thus do not meet the 25-mile specification of Section 73.1125(a)(3) of the Commission’s rules. (The studios are, however, exactly 25.00 miles from the existing WUMD transmitter site).⁵

Accordingly, Special Temporary Authority (and as necessary, a waiver of Section 73.1125(a)) is requested, for the period commencing on the date the WUMD license is assigned to RIPR, until construction and licensing of modified WUMD facilities are completed, to permit WUMD programming to originate from the RIPR studios in Providence, Rhode Island.⁶

¹ FCC File No. BALED-20170104AAT, granted May 1, 2017.

² See FCC File No. BPED-20170104AAW.

³ RIPR is licensed to operate Noncommercial Educational FM Station WRNI-FM, Narragansett Pier, Rhode Island. Its programming is also carried on Noncommercial Educational FM Stations WELH, Facility ID No. 66656, Providence, and WCVY, Facility ID No. 14229, Coventry. RIPR is also the licensee of AM Broadcast Station WRNI, Facility ID No. 48308, Providence, which broadcasts a program service produced by Latino Public Radio.

⁴ Public notice of the proposed change in the community of license was published in the Federal Register on February 27, 2017, 82 Fed.Reg. 11911.

⁵ Since no other station licensed to North Dartmouth places a principal community contour over the location of the RIPR studio, RIPR cannot avail itself of the siting prescription of Section 73.1125(a)(2).

⁶ It should also be noted that on January 5, 2017, RIPR filed a request to change the WUMD call sign to WXNI, Request No. 43741, effective upon assignment of license.