

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
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**WASHINGTON DC 20554**

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September 29, 2017

Aerco Broadcasting Corporation  
1554 Bori St.  
Urb. Caribe  
San Juan, PR 00927

Re: Aerco Broadcasting Corporation  
WQBS(AM), San Juan, Puerto Rico  
Facility Identification Number: 573  
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Applicant:

This is in reference to the request filed September 28, 2017, on behalf of Aerco Broadcasting Corporation ("ABC"). ABC requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate station WQBS(AM) with emergency antenna facilities.<sup>1</sup>

In support of the request, ABC states that WQBS(AM) was severely damaged by Hurricane Maria and went off the air on September 20, 2017. However, the station states that it is possible to operate non-directionally with reduced power using one of the towers of its array. Thus, WQBS(AM) requests an STA to operate non-directionally from one of the towers in the station's array, and with power reduced to 25% of 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.

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<sup>1</sup> WQBS(AM) is licensed for operation on 870 kHz with a daytime and nighttime power of 5 kilowatts, employing different directional antenna patterns (DA2-U).

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. Station WQBS(AM) may operate non-directionally during daytime and nighttime hours from one of the towers in the station's directional array and with power not to exceed 1.25 kilowatts. It will be necessary to further reduce or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. ABC 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 **March 28, 2018**.

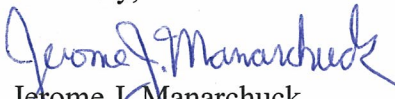
**STA Advisory:** Section 309(f) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, authorizes the Commission to grant STA in cases of "extraordinary circumstances requiring temporary authorizations in the public interest and when delay in the institution of the temporary operations would seriously prejudice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