

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

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March 12, 2018

A Radio Company, Inc.  
P.O. Box 6537  
Caguas, PR 00726

Re: A Radio Company, Inc.  
WEGA(AM), Vega Baja, Puerto Rico  
Facility Identification Number: 69853  
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Applicant:

This is in reference to the request filed March 1, 2018, on behalf of A Radio Company, Inc. ("ARC"). ARC requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate station WEGA(AM) with emergency antenna facilities.<sup>1</sup> In support of the request, ARC states that WEGA(AM) requests STA to operate with an emergency antenna as previously authorized, pending completion of construction of facilities authorized in BP-20170427AAE. During the term of the previous STA, the licensee was unable to return the facilities to licensed operation.

Specifically, WEGA(AM) requests operation with the same STA facilities authorized in BSTA-20120515ABJ and extended multiple times since then. ARC states that the station was operating with an emergency antenna authorized in BESTA-20170502AAF until it was forced off the air by Hurricane Maria on September 20, 2017. The station was granted silent authority on November 6, 2017 but managed to return to the air the following week, on November 13, 2017. However, a week later on November 20, 2017 the station's emergency generator was stolen and therefore the station was granted silent authority again on February 21, 2018. The station is now requesting STA to operate with the same emergency antenna facilities previously granted in BSTA-20120515ABJ.

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

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<sup>1</sup> WEGA(AM) is licensed for operation on 1350 kHz with a daytime and nighttime power of 5 kilowatts, employing different directional antenna patterns (DA2-U).

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 WEGA(AM) may operate non-directionally from one of its towers during daytime and nighttime hours with a maximum power of 0.625 kilowatt. It will be necessary to further reduce or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. ARC 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 **September 8, 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jerome J. Manarchuck". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jerome J. Manarchuck  
Audio Division  
Media Bureau

cc: John Wells King, Esq. (via email only)