

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 12th STREET, SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

MEDIA BUREAU
AUDIO DIVISION
APPLICATION STATUS: (202) 418-2730
HOME PAGE: www.fcc.gov/media/radio/audio-division

PROCESSING ENGINEER: Arthur E. Doak
TELEPHONE: (202) 418-2715
Mail Stop: 1800B3-AED
INTERNET ADDRESS: Arthur.Doak@fcc.gov

March 27, 2018

Gregory L. Masters, Esq.
Wiley Rein LLP
1776 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Re: WPBG(FM), Peoria, Illinois
Alpha Media Licensee LLC
Facility ID No.: 42114
File No. 20180305ABH

**Request for Extension of
Experimental Authority**

Dear Counsel:

The staff has under consideration the above-referenced March 5, 2018, request for further extension of experimental authority 20160324ABG¹ (Extension Request) submitted on behalf of Alpha Media Licensee LLC (Alpha Media), licensee of commercial FM Station WPBG(FM), Peoria, Illinois,² to permit WPBG(FM) to continue to conduct testing of hybrid digital FM in-band on-channel (IBOC) operation using asymmetric power levels in the digital sidebands. The experimental authority is requested pursuant to Section 5.203 of the Commission's Rules.³

The Extension Request states that Alpha Media is seeking extension of its current experimental authority to operate WPBG(FM) with lower sideband (LSB) digital effective radiated power (ERP) of -14 dBc⁴ and upper sideband (USB) digital ERP of -10 dBc. In support of the Extension Request, as required, Alpha Media submitted an interim report detailing the methodology employed and the progress and results of its testing under its current experimental authorization. Alpha Media states that WPBG(FM) has operated its digital facilities using asymmetric digital sideband powers since commencing operation pursuant to its current experimental authority in April 2016 without any complaints of interference or degradation of

¹ File No. 20160324ABG.

² File Number BMLH-20170616AAK.

³ 47 C.F.R. § 5.203 (Section 5.203).

⁴ Decibels relative to analog carrier.

the WPBG(FM) analog signal. Additionally, Alpha Media reports that its listening tests and listener surveys show that operation with increased digital power in the WPBG(FM) USB has allowed the station to provide more robust digital service to listeners.

Our review indicates that the proposed WPBG(FM) experimental operation complies with the contour nonoverlap and other technical requirements of the Media Bureau's Order, adopted January 27, 2010, in Mass Media Docket No. 99-325,⁵ and the request for extension of experimental authority meets the requirements for experimental operations set forth in Section 5.203. Accordingly, the Extension Request IS HEREBY GRANTED. Station WPBG(FM) may operate with increased digital ERP as follows:

Analog ERP:	41 kilowatts (kW), H&V ⁶
Digital LSB ERP:	0.820 kW
Digital USB ERP:	2.05 kW.

This experimental authority expires on **April 6, 2019**. This authority is specifically conditioned on the lack of objectionable interference. A report detailing the methodology employed and the results obtained must be submitted within 90 days following the conclusion of the experimental operation. Any request for extension of this experimental authority should be filed at least 30 days prior to the expiration date of this authority. Additionally, an extension request must include an interim version of the aforementioned report that details the progress of the experimental operation as of the filing date of the request.

Sincerely,



Rodolfo F. Bonacci
Assistant Chief
Audio Division
Media Bureau

cc: Alpha Media Licensee LLC

⁵ See *Digital Audio Broadcasting Systems And Their Impact on the Terrestrial Radio Broadcast Service*, Order, 25 FCC Rcd 1182 (MB 2010).

⁶ All ERP values rounded in accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 73.212(a).