

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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March 21, 2008

Michael W. Richards, Esq.
Fletcher, Heald & Hildreth, P.L.C.
1300 North 17th Street, 11th Floor
Arlington, Virginia 22209-3801

In re: WQBN(AM), Temple Terrace, FL
Facility Identification Number: 74155
Radio Tropical, Inc.
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Counsel:

This is in reference to the request filed March 11, 2008, on behalf of Radio Tropical, Inc. ("RTI"). RTI requests special temporary authority ("STA") for operation of Station WQBN with parameters at variance and/or reduced power while maintaining monitor points within licensed limits.¹

In support of the request for extension, RTI states that the station's ground system has been damaged by vandalism, causing operational variances. RTI further states that a new diplexed facility is being installed at the site. Because of the complexity of the issues it is facing, RTI requests STA for the maximum term of six months.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. Station WQBN may continue to operate with parameters at variance and/or reduced power while maintaining monitor points within licensed limits. It will be necessary to further reduce power or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. WQBN 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 21, 2008**.

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

¹ WQBN is licensed for operation on 1300 kHz with 5 kilowatts daytime and 0.16 kilowatt nighttime, employing a directional antenna during daytime hours only (DA-D-U).

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 black ink, appearing to read "Charles N. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Charles N. Miller, Engineer
Audio Division
Media Bureau

cc: Radio Tropical, Inc.