



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

June 4, 2019

In reply refer to: 1800B3-VM

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Matadors, LLC
P.O. Box 221376
Santa Clarita, CA 91322-1376

In re: WQMS(AM), Quitman, MS
Facility ID No. 54325
Operational Status Inquiry

Dear Licensee:

Our records show that Station WQMS(AM), Quitman, Mississippi (Station), licensed to Matadors, LLC (Matadors) has been silent off and on since 2013.¹ Pursuant to Section 73.1740 of the Commission's Rules, Matadors is required to clarify this matter in writing within thirty days of the date of this letter.

Our records show that on October 31, 2013, Matadors filed a Request for Special Temporary Authority to Remain Silent (STA) stating that on October 21, 2013, the Station went silent because of technical difficulties with its unipole antenna.² Matadors filed a request to extend the STA on August 8, 2014, stating that the Station remained silent for the same reason stated in the original STA request.³ On October 7, 2014, Matadors filed a resumption of operation stating that the Station resumed operation on September 28, 2014, using an emergency long wire. On September 29, 2014, the Station again went silent, stating that maintaining that configuration was not feasible.⁴ On April 30, 2015, Matadors filed a request to extend the STA, stating that it was unable to repair the station's technical problems.⁵ On September 29, 2015, Matadors filed a resumption of operation stating that the Station resumed broadcasting on September 20, 2015 pursuant to its "licensed parameters" without further explanation.

On July 28, 2017, Matadors filed a new request for STA stating that the Station went off the air on July 19, 2017, because it was experiencing technical difficulties with its antenna system.⁶ On February 12, 2018, Matadors filed a request to extend the STA, stating that it was continuing to experience technical difficulties preventing the transmission of WQMS's signal. It also stated that it had been trying unsuccessfully to find a new transmitter location to resolve the Station's technical issues.⁷ On July 17, 2018, Matadors filed a notice of resumption of operation stating that the Station had resumed operation on July 10, 2018, pursuant to its licensed parameters. Again, no further explanation of the circumstances of the Station's resumption of operation was given.

On August 14, 2018, Matadors filed another STA request stating that the Station had gone silent on July 12, 2018 due to technical difficulties with its antenna system, again indicating that it was looking

¹ See File Nos. BLSTA-20131031AGC, BLESTA-20140808AAJ, BLSTA-20141022AAY, BLESTA-20150430AED, BLSTA-20170728AGB, BLESTA-20180212AAM, BLSTA-20180814AAC, BLESTA-20190311ABH.

² See File No. BLSTA-20131031AGC, Exh. 1.

³ See File No. BLESTA-20140808AAJ, Exh. 2.

⁴ See File No. BLSTA-20141022AAY, Exh. 1.

⁵ See File No. BLESTA-20150430AED, Exh. 2.

⁶ See File No. BLSTA-20170728AGB, Exh. 1.

⁷ See File No. BLESTA-20180212AAM, Exh.2

for alternative transmitter sites.⁸ On March 11, 2019, it filed a request to extend STA for the same reasons.⁹


Based on this information, it appears that the Station may have been silent (or failed to operate with authorized facilities) for more than one year. Pursuant to Section 312(g) of the Communications Act, as amended, **if a broadcast station fails to transmit broadcast signals with its authorized facilities for any consecutive 12-month period, then the station license granted for the operation of that broadcast station expires at the end of that period, unless extended or reinstated by Commission action.**

Please provide evidence documenting the Station's operational status since October 12, 2013. This evidence must indicate the location, effective radiated power and antenna height above ground level for **all periods of operation** from October 21, 2013, to the present. Also include copies of all leases, personnel records (including payroll records appropriately redacted to protect the privacy of individual employees), engineering records, and station logs (including EAS logs) for that period of time. In addition, you must provide copies of all invoices, bills, checks written or received, credit card charges, wire transfers or deposits of funds relating to the Station's operation.¹⁰ You **must also include pictures** of the Station's studio facilities and transmission facilities during this timeframe and provide exact Station coordinates.

The documents must be filed with the Office of the Secretary, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554, and an emailed copy to Victoria McCauley at the address below.

Failure to respond to this letter within the specified time will result in adverse actions jeopardizing both the Station's license and call letters. If you have any questions concerning the content of this letter, please contact Victoria McCauley, Attorney, by phone (202-418-2136), or e-mail (victoria.mccauley@fcc.gov).

Sincerely,


Albert Shuldiner
Chief, Audio Division
Media Bureau

⁸ See File No. BLSTA-20180814AAC, Exh. 1.

⁹ See File No. BLESTA-20190311ABH, Exh. 2.

¹⁰ In addition, if the Station uses accounting software to maintain financial records, provide printouts of the data recorded for this period.