

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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MEDIA BUREAU
AUDIO DIVISION
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October 10, 2019

University of Massachusetts
One Beacon St., 31st Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Re: University of Massachusetts
WFPB(AM), Orleans, MA
Facility Identification Number: 8591
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Applicant:

This is in reference to the request filed September 5, 2019, on behalf of University of Massachusetts ("UMass"). UMass requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate station WFPB(AM) from an alternate site location.¹ The station was granted an STA for operation at the alternate site in BSTA-20190905AAK, however it was discovered that the mounting location on the roof could not support the antenna. Therefore, WFPB(AM) is proposing operation with the antenna mounted in a different location at the site.

In support of the request UMass states that's WFPB(AM) was forced to take its facility dark on October 18, 2018 due to the loss of the transmitter site from which it has operated for more than six decades. The station has located a permanent site and expects to file a 301 application within then next 60 days, however the station wants to resume broadcasting immediately to avoid the station's license from expiring. The station's license will automatically expire if broadcast operations do not commence by 12:01 a.m., October 19, 2019. Thus, an STA is requested to relocate WFPB(AM) to an alternate site location and operate with a fiberglass whip antenna and at reduced power.

Specifically, WFPB(AM) requests an STA to operate daytime only with an Information Station Specialists, Inc. ANXX antenna. Operation with a reduced power of 25 watts is proposed. The ANXX whip antenna is 15 feet in length at the station's frequency and will be mounted on a pipe inserted in the ground near the structure on the property. UMass states that a fence will restrict access to the antenna and an RF hazard sign will be posted on the fence.

¹ WFPB(AM) is licensed for daytime only operation on 1170 kHz with a power of 0.67 kilowatt, employing a non-directional antenna pattern (NDD-D).

STA requests which involve a change in transmitter site must include four critical elements: (1) Loss of the licensed site must be beyond the licensee's control; (2) STA facilities must continue to provide service to the licensed community; (3) STA facilities must maintain, as closely as practicable, the licensed service area² without extending it; (4) STA facilities cannot involve the construction of towers intended for permanent use by the station requesting the STA.

Accordingly, the request for STA is GRANTED and BSTA-20190905AAK is SUPERSEDED.

Station WFPB(AM) may operate with the following facilities:

Geographic coordinates	41° 44' 51" N, 69° 58' 30" W (NAD 1927)
Frequency	1170 KHz
Hours of operation	Daytime only
Operating power	0.025 kilowatt
Antenna type	Information Specialists, Inc. ANXX whip antenna
Electrical height of radiator	6.5°
Antenna efficiency	22 mV/m/kW at 1 km

It will be necessary to further reduce power or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. WFPB(AM) must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored. WFPB(AM) 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 7, 2020**.

Notwithstanding the grant of this STA or the expiration date specified herein, the station's license will expire as a matter of law if broadcast operations do not commence by 12:01 a.m., October 19, 2019. *See* Pub. Law No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56, Section 403(1)(1996) and *Order, Silent Station Authorizations*, FCC 96-218 (released May 17, 1996). *See also Public Notice, Expedited Processing of Applications Filed by Silent Stations*, DA 96-818 (May 22, 1996). The licensee must notify the Audio Division immediately upon resumption of broadcasting.

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.

² For AM - 0.5 mV/m contour; for FM - 1.0 mV/m contour.

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 dark ink, reading "Jerome J. Manarchuck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jerome" and last name "Manarchuck" clearly legible.

Jerome J. Manarchuck
Audio Division
Media Bureau

cc: John F. Garziglia, Esq. (via email only)
Charley A. Hecht (via email only)