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FCC Mailroom

Secretary Federal Communications Commission Washington, DC 20554

ATTN: Media Bureau

Re: Request for Extension of Experimental Authorization

Midwest Communications, Inc. Station WPBG(FM) Peoria, IL (Fac. 1042114)

Dear Madam Secretary:

On behalf of Midwest Communications, Inc., ("MWC"), licensee of FM broadcast station WPBG(FM), Peoria, IL, FACID 42114, and pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §5.203, the Commission is respectfully requested to extend the experimental authorization granted by letter dated April 6, 2016, and extended by letter dated March 15, 2019, permitting WPBG(FM) to conduct testing of hybrid digital FM in-band on-channel (IBOC) operation using asymmetric power levels in the digital sidebands. See File No. 20160324ABG. The station is operating with lower sideband (LSB) digital effective radiated power (ERP) of -14 dBc and upper sideband (USB) digital ERP of -10 dBc. An engineering report detailing the progress of the experimentation is attached. WPBG's current authorization will expire April 6, 2020. MWC hereby requests continuation of the experimental authority.

MWC has authorized undersigned counsel to certify on its behalf that no party to the application is subject to a denial of federal benefits, including FCC benefits, pursuant to §5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1998, 21 U.S.C. §862. For the definition of a "party" for these purposes, see 47 C.F.R. §1.2002(b).

Please direct any questions concerning this matter to undersigned counsel.

Sincerely John S. Neely

Enc. cc: Rodolfo Bonacci (Media Bureau) – via email

WPBG(FM) Peoria IL

Report on asymmetrical HD experimental authority

26 February 2020

On April 6, 2016 WPBG(FM) was granted experimental authority to conduct testing of hybrid digital FM in-band on-channel (IBOC) operation using asymmetric power levels in the digital sidebands. This experimental authority allows station WPBG(FM) to operate with lower sideband (LSB) digital effective radiated power (ERP) of -14 dBc (.820kw) and upper sideband (USB) digital ERP of –10 dBc (2.05kw).

WPBG(FM) has continuously operated with these digital power levels from April 6, 2016 to the present day with short periods of symmetrical operation for comparison. During this testing period, including the past year, WPBG(FM) Chief Operator Wayne R Miller and other staff have continued to conduct listening tests to determine the effect that asymmetrical power level operation has had on analog and digital reception.

These tests were conducted with a variety of receivers including OEM and aftermarket automotive radios, desktop radios, portable radios and tuners. Locations of the tests were local, distant and fringe coverage areas roughly corresponding to the 70/60, 50 and 40 db contours. During this past year, special attention was given to analog only radios to determine if any noise was apparent during asymmetrical operation.

WPBG(FM) has continued to survey listeners to determine the extent of HD listening and to see if the experimental operation has caused any noticeable degradation of the station's analog signal.

Since WPBG(FM) initiated digital service in 2016 there has been a substantial increase in HD listening to all 4 HD streams. There have been no reported issues with WPBG(FM) analog reception in any of the station's coverage area when operating asymmetrical. There is continued indication of more robust digital coverage in all areas when operating with upper sideband (USB) digital ERP of -10 dBc.

WPBG(FM) has received no reports of and is unaware of any interference to any first adjacent stations on 93.5mhz.

It is my conclusion that asymmetrical operation has had no detrimental effect on WPBG(FM)'s analog operation and has, in fact, improved digital coverage over symmetrical operation.

Wagner

Wayne R Miller – WPBG(FM) Chief Operator