

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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March 9, 2020

Tidewater Communications, LLC
73 Kercheval Avenue
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

Re: Tidewater Communications, LLC
WJOI(AM), Norfolk, VA
Facility Identification Number: 67081
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Applicant:

This is in reference to the request filed March 6, 2020, on behalf of Tidewater Communications, LLC ("TCL"). TCL requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate station WJOI(AM) with temporary emergency antenna facilities.¹ In support of the request, TCL states that on September 14, 2019 the existing tower was demolished, and a replacement tower of equal height was constructed in its place. During the period of demolition and tower reconstruction, WJOI(AM) requested operation with a temporary whip antenna at reduced power and was granted an STA on September 6, 2019. However, the STA expired March 5, 2020 and although significant progress has been made in restoring the licensed operation, installation of the AM folded unipole skirt and associated apparatus have not yet been completed. Therefore, the station requests STA to continue operating with the temporary whip antenna at reduced power.

Specifically, WJOI(AM) proposes continued operation from the temporary HPR0990 AM antenna (center-loaded, bottom fed, vertical whip antenna) installed on the main WJOI(AM) transmitter building. Non-directional operation is proposed with a reduced power of 0.157 kilowatt.

Section 73.1680 of the Commission's rules provide for operation with emergency antenna facilities, provided that an informal request for continued use of an emergency antenna is filled with the Commission within 24 hours. In particular, Section 73.1680(b)(1) states that AM stations may use a horizontal or vertical wire or a nondirectional vertical element of a directional antenna as an emergency antenna. AM stations using an emergency nondirectional antenna or a horizontal or vertical wire pursuant to this section, in lieu of authorized directional facilities, shall operate with power reduced to 25% or less of the nominal licensed power, or, a higher power, not exceeding licensed power, while insuring that the radiated field strength does not exceed that authorized in any given azimuth for the corresponding hours of directional operation.

¹ WJOI(AM) is licensed for operation on 1230 kHz with a daytime and nighttime power of 0.627 kilowatt, employing a non-directional antenna pattern (ND1-U).

Accordingly, the request for STA is GRANTED. Station WJOI(AM) may operate with the following facilities:

Geographic coordinates	36° 50' 04" N, 76° 16' 11" W (NAD 1927)
Frequency	1230 KHz
Hours of operation	Daytime and Nighttime
Operating power	0.157 kilowatt
Antenna type	HPR0990 center-loaded, bottom fed, vertical whip
Radiator height	31 feet (9.5 meters)
Electrical height of radiator	14 degrees
Antenna efficiency	126.4 mV/m/kW at 1 km

It will be necessary to further reduce power or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. WJOI(AM) must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored. WJOI(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 **September 5, 2020**.

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.

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 that reads "Jerome J. Manarchuck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Jerome J. Manarchuck
Audio Division
Media Bureau

cc: Gary S. Smithwick, Esq. (via email only)