

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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July 20, 2020

Sovereign Communications, LLC
P.O. Box 1230
Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783

Re: Sovereign Communications, LLC
WDMJ(AM), Marquette, Michigan
Facility Identification Number: 24448
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Applicant:

This is in reference to the request filed May 11, 2020, on behalf of Sovereign Communications, LLC ("SCL"). SCL requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate station WDMJ(AM) with temporary facilities.¹ In support of the request, SCL states that WDMJ(AM) has experienced a complete antenna failure. Therefore, in an effort to allow the station to continue to provide service to the public, the station is requesting an STA to operate with a temporary long-wire antenna from its licensed site.

Specifically, WDMJ(AM) requests STA to use 186 feet of #12 stranded electrical wire as its long-wire antenna. SCL states that the wire will leave the transmitter building and will be supported by two different poles. The wire will be supported by the first pole at a height of 20 feet above ground level and the second pole at a height of 15 feet above ground level. A power of 200 watts is requested for daytime and nighttime operations.

Accordingly, the request for STA is GRANTED. However the nighttime power level must not exceed the licensed power level of 135 watts. Station WDMJ(AM) may operate with the following facilities:

Geographic coordinates	46° 32' 40" N, 87° 26' 42" W (NAD 1927)
Frequency	1320 kHz
Hours of operation	Daytime and Nighttime
Operating power	0.2 kilowatt (Daytime), 0.135 kW (Nighttime)
Antenna type	186 foot long-wire antenna supported by two poles

It will be necessary to further reduce power or cease operation if complaints of interference are

¹ WDMJ(AM) is licensed for operation on 1320 kHz with a daytime power of 5 kilowatts and a nighttime power of 0.135 kilowatt, employing a nondirectional antenna pattern (ND2-U).

received. WDMJ(AM) must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored. WDMJ(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 **January 16, 2021**.

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 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: Sally A. Buckman, Esq. (via email only)