

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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October 27, 2020

Family Stations, Inc.
112 North Elm St.
Shenandoah, IA 51601

Re: Family Stations, Inc.
WFME(AM), New York, NY
Facility Identification Number: 29024
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Applicant:

This is in reference to the request filed October 22, 2020, on behalf of Family Stations, Inc. ("FSI"). FSI requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate station WFME(AM) with parameters at variance from its licensed facilities.¹ Specifically, FSI requests that station WFME(AM) be permitted to continue to operate during daytime and nighttime hours utilizing the station's authorized nighttime directional antenna system.

In support of the request, FSI states that on October 13, 2020, a geological survey company performing soil boring and compaction testing on the property, struck the conduits containing the control lines to two towers with their boring equipment. As a result, WFME(AM) was taken off the air and mode change capability was disrupted. The array was put into night mode and returned to the air on October 14, 2020, operating at its authorized nighttime power. Therefore, an STA is requested to continue to operate daytime using the nighttime directional antenna system until the necessary repairs are made. No changes are proposed to the nighttime operation.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. However, the daytime power must be reduced to 30 kilowatts, in order to prevent an increase in predicted interference to first adjacent station WISP(AM) on 1570 kHz at Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Station WFME(AM) may operate daytime and nighttime with the station's currently licensed nighttime directional antenna system and with a daytime power of 30 kilowatts. No changes are proposed to the nighttime operation. It will be necessary to further reduce power or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. WFME(AM) must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored.²

¹ WFME(AM) is licensed for operation on 1560 kHz with a daytime and nighttime power of 50 kilowatts, employing different directional antenna patterns (DA2-U).

² See 47 CFR §§ 73.45(c), 73.51, 73.61(b).

WFME(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 **April 25, 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: Matthew H. McCormick, Esq. (via email only)