



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

February 18, 2021

Saga Communications of New England, LLC
73 Kercheval Ave.
Gross Pointe Farms, MI 48236

Re: Saga Communications of New England, LLC
WFEA(AM), Manchester, New Hampshire
Facility Identification Number: 58543
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Applicant

This is in reference to the request filed February 16, 2021, on behalf of Saga Communications of New England, LLC ("Saga"). Saga requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate station WFEA(AM) during daytime hours with parameters at variance from license values and/or reduced power while maintaining monitor points within license limits.¹ No changes are proposed to the nighttime operation.

In support of the request, Saga states that issues with the daytime phasor have required the station to operate with a reduced power of 4.1 kilowatts in order to maintain all daytime monitoring points continuously within their specified limits. A routine inspection and cleaning and tightening of the daytime phasor component connections partially resolved the issue, however more in-depth maintenance of the daytime phasor will be required. Therefore, until the issue is resolved, an STA is requested to continue to operate with a reduced daytime power of 4.1 kilowatts.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. Station WFEA(AM) may operate during daytime hours with a reduced power of 4.1 kilowatts in order to maintain daytime monitor points within license limits. 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. Saga 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 **August 17, 2021**.

STA Advisory: Section 309(f) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, authorizes the

¹ WFEA(AM) is licensed for operation on 1370 kHz with a daytime and nighttime power of 5 kilowatts, employing different directional antenna patterns (DA2-U).

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, flowing style.

Jerome J. Manarchuck
Audio Division
Media Bureau

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