



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 6, 2021

Midwest Communications, Inc.  
Attn: Paul Rahmlow  
904 Grand Ave.  
Wausau, WI 54403

Re: Midwest Communications, Inc.  
WMBD(AM), Peoria, IL  
Fac. ID No.: 42119  
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Applicant:

This is in reference to the request filed May 5, 2021, on behalf of Midwest Communications, Inc. ("MCI"). MCI requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate station WMBD(AM) with parameters at variance from its licensed facilities and/or reduced power while maintaining monitor points within license limits.<sup>1</sup>

In support of the request, MCI states that it has been discovered that a suspected malfunction in the tower 1 and/or tower 2 tuning unit or sample system is causing the directional day and night pattern readings to drift from licensed values. Therefore, an STA is requested to operate WMBD(AM) with parameters at variance from its licensed facilities and/or reduced power while maintaining monitor points within license limits, until the issue can be resolved.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. WMBD(AM) may operate during daytime and nighttime hours with parameters at variance from its licensed facilities and/or reduced power while maintaining monitor points within license limits. It will be necessary to further reduce power or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. WMBD(AM) must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored.<sup>2</sup> WMBD(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 **November 2, 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

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<sup>1</sup> WMBD(AM) is licensed for operation on 1470 kHz with a daytime and nighttime power of 5 kilowatts, employing different directional antenna patterns (DA2-U).

<sup>2</sup> *See* 47 CFR §§ 73.45(c), 73.51, 73.61(b).

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 large, stylized initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

Jerome J. Manarchuck  
Audio Division  
Media Bureau

cc: John Neely, Esq. (via email only)