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MEDIA BUREAU
AUDIO DIVISION
APPLICATION STATUS: (202) 418-2730
HOME PAGE: www.fcc.gov/media/radio/audio-division

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4 Simms Court
Kensington, MD 20895

Re: WPBG(FM), Peoria, Illinois
Midwest Communications, Inc.
Facility ID No. 42114
File No. 20210503AAJ

Request for Experimental Authority

Dear Counsel:

The staff has under consideration the above-referenced May 3, 2021, request for experimental authority submitted on behalf of Midwest Communications, Inc. (Midwest), licensee of commercial FM Station WPBG(FM), Peoria, Illinois,¹ to permit Station WPBG(FM) to conduct testing of hybrid digital FM in-band on-channel (IBOC) operation using asymmetric power levels in the digital sidebands. The experimental authority is requested pursuant to Section 5.203 of the Commission's Rules.²

The request states that Midwest is seeking experimental authority to operate Station WPBG(FM) with lower sideband (LSB) digital effective radiated power (ERP) of -14 dBc³ and upper sideband (USB) digital ERP of -10 dBc. In support of its request, Midwest submitted an engineering study showing that the proposed operation complies fully with the contour nonoverlap requirements of the Media Bureau's *Order* adopted January 27, 2010, in MM Docket No. 99-325⁴ for operation with -10 dBc USB digital ERP.

¹ File Number BMLH-20170616AAK. WPBG(FM) is a super-powered station licensed for analog operation on channel 227B (93.3 megahertz) with 41 kilowatts (kW) effective radiated power (ERP) and 168 meters antenna radiation center height above average terrain (HAAT) using a non-directional antenna.

² 47 CFR § 5.203 (Section 5.203).

³ Decibels relative to analog carrier.

⁴ See *Digital Audio Broadcasting Systems And Their Impact on the Terrestrial Radio Broadcast Service*, Order, 25 FCC Rcd 1182 (2010) (*Order*).

Our review indicates that the proposed Station WPBG(FM) operation complies with the contour nonoverlap and other technical requirements of the Order, and the request for experimental authority meets the requirements for experimental operations set forth in Section 5.203. Accordingly, the request is HEREBY GRANTED. Station WPBG(FM) may operate with increased digital ERP as follows:

Analog ERP:	41 kilowatts (kW), H&V ⁵
Digital LSB ERP:	0.820 kW
Digital USB ERP:	2.05 kW

This experimental authority expires on **June 22, 2022**. This authority is specifically conditioned on the lack of objectionable interference. A report detailing the methodology employed and the results obtained must be submitted within 90 days following the conclusion of the experimental operation. Any request for extension of this experimental authority should be filed at least 30 days prior to the expiration date of the authority. Additionally, an extension request must include an interim version of the aforementioned report that details the progress of the experimental operation as of the filing date of the request.

Sincerely,

Rodolfo F. Bonacci
Assistant Chief
Audio Division
Media Bureau

cc: Midwest Communications, Inc. (via email)
Jeremy D. Ruck, P.E. (via email)

⁵ All ERP values rounded in accordance with 47 CFR § 73.212(a).