



New World Broadcasting Company Inc
dba Radio Station KCLF
803 Parent Street
P.O. Box 470
New Roads, LA 70760

Office of the Secretary
Media Bureau, Audio Division
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554

REQUEST FOR TOLLING OR EXTENSION OF TIME
REF: K253CM 98.5 MHz New Roads LA

File No. 0000131235 Facility ID 200918

Dear Sir or Madam,

KCLF is a daytime 1KW AM station licensed to New Roads, Louisiana, a community of approximately 4600 citizens, about 64% of whom are African-American and about 24% of that demographic live below the poverty line. KCLF is 100% African-American owned, with the owner having lived in the community or near vicinity his entire life. KCLF is the only locally owned radio station in the entire parish of Pointe Coupee, where New Roads is the seat of parish government. All station revenues come from local small business and a few churches—there is no national advertiser that does business with KCLF.

Not long after the underlying Construction Permit was issued the owner, Mr. Roosevelt Gremillion, suffered two successive strokes, the second of which required his being transported by helicopter to Ochsner Hospital in New Orleans. Recovery from the second stroke has been slow with Mr. Gremillion's vision impaired to the extent that he can no longer drive a motor vehicle. Mr. Gremillion is the only administrative and sales person and has limited mobility to call on clients until his vision improves. Since early 2020 he has been sheltering in place at home, only visiting the station as necessary. There is no full time staff to assist due to the economic conditions. The station runs on computer automation which is accessed remotely.

Mr. Gremillion's wife has onset Alzheimer's which has required him to transition to caretaker, further limiting his day to day activities running the business.

KCLF has a Construction Permit for a cross-service FM translator which expires August 23, 2021. The Construction Permit was extended from an earlier deadline of February 23, 2021. Construction has been delayed for several reasons, including ongoing financial stress which worsened in 2020-2021 due to the pandemic, which closed some local businesses that did not recover. Those local advertisers who did survive have severely curtailed their ad budgets as they wait for an economic recovery in this small community. Revenues are down by 80% due to the combination of personal illness and the local impact of the pandemic. Accumulation of funds to construct the translator facility has taken much longer than anticipated due to advertising revenues having diminished to a trickle.

We identified a tower that would give the translator good coverage and have a lease agreement ready for signature. A draft copy of this lease agreement is attached. The Construction Permit was modified to specify this tower early this year.

The tower man who was to do the installation has contracted COVID while returning from a tower project in the Dakotas. He was contacted at home last week and asked when he would be ready to commence tower work on our behalf, he replied that he and his wife had contracted the virus. At the time he sounded normal, but when called back this Tuesday he responded with a wheezing, raspy voice and said he was not going to be able to do tower work for some time to come. He should have been in the hospital as his condition had deteriorated rapidly in just a few days. Baton Rouge area hospitals have run out of beds and ICU facilities are maxed out, due to an exponential increase in positive COVID cases requiring hospitalization in the last 30 days. Louisiana went under a statewide mask mandate as of Wednesday- we are clearly in a crisis situation with COVID infections rising rapidly across the entire state, almost all due to the Delta variant and a largely unvaccinated population. While the outcome of our tower man's illness is uncertain, what is certain is his unavailability to us. He was to furnish the transmission line as part of his proposal. A copy of his proposal is attached.

The loss of our tower man's services has added a major setback to the ongoing series of setbacks that have derailed completion of the translator installation.

We respectfully request tolling or a waiver on the impending deadline for a period up to six months while we regroup and search for a qualified tower climber who is willing to perform the installation. The tower is an old terrestrial microwave self-supporting tower loaded with appurtenances left over from the microwave horn antenna support system.. It is not an easy installation and anyone working on the tower must meet the approval of the current owner. We are well aware that this translator is a lifeline to the station and KCLF's future, if not its survival, depends on a 24 hour FM signal that serves the community of license and the surrounding rural area. In that respect we are anxious to complete construction and apply for the license to cover.

Sincerely,

Corey Meyer

Assistant to Mr. Gremillion

This document has been read aloud to Mr. Gremillion and submitted with his approval.