FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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October 16, 2009

David Tillotson, Esq.
4606 Charleston Terrace, NW
Washington, DC 20007-1911

Re: WIAN(AM), Ishpeming, Michigan
Facility Identification Number: 24450
Northern Star Broadcasting, LLC
Special Temporary Authorization

Dear Counsel:

This is in reference to the request filed October 13, 2009, and supplemented October 14, 2009, on behalf of Northern Star Broadcasting, LLC ("NSB"). NSB requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate Station WIAN with reduced power.[1][2] In support of the request, NSB states that STA is requested in order to enable the station to reduce its power bill. NSB states that, absent the cost savings that can be achieved by reducing power, it would need to suspend operation until economic conditions improve. NSB further states that the city of license, Ishpeming, is surrounded by state forests, so relatively few people will lose service as a result of the proposed power reduction.

Ordinarily, a request for STA to operate with less than full, licensed facilities is not granted for purely economic reasons. However, under the unique circumstances presented here, we believe that a different course of action is warranted. The State of Michigan has been severely impacted by the recent economic downturn, with the highest unemployment rate in the nation, currently 15.2 percent.[3] Under the proposed STA operation, the required level of service will continue to be provided to the community of license. In addition, because Station WIAN serves a small, rural community in Northern Michigan which is surrounded by sparsely populated land areas, the loss of service due to the proposed power reduction will affect a relatively small population. Finally, the licensee has stated that, absent the relief requested, the station will be forced to suspend operation. Given the hard choice between a reduction in service or none at all, we are persuaded that the Public Interest would be served by grant of the requested STA.

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[1] WIAN is licensed for operation on 1240 kHz with 1 kilowatt, unlimited hours, employing a nondirectional antenna.

[2] Similar requests were filed on behalf of NSB Stations WDMJ(AM), WCBY(AM) and WAVC(FM). The two AM requests are granted by separate letters this date; the FM request remains pending.

[3] U.S. Department of Labor, News Release, *Regional And State Employment And Unemployment – August 2009,* USDL-09-1126, September 18, 2009.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS GRANTED. Station WIAN may operate with reduced power not less than 250 watts. NSB must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored. NSB 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 16, 2010**. Upon a showing of continued economic distress, this authority may be extended for one additional term of 180 days; however, further extension beyond that point is not contemplated.

Sincerely,

Charles N. Miller, Engineer
Audio Division
Media Bureau

cc: Northern Star Broadcasting, LLC