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September 19, 2011

Mitzi T. Gramling, Esq.
Associate General Counsel
Minnesota Public Radio
480 Cedar Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

Re: Minnesota Public Radio
WIRN(FM), Buhl, Minnesota
Facility Identification Number: 78080
Special Temporary Authority

Dear Counsel:

This is in reference to the request filed September 7, 2011, on behalf of Minnesota Public Radio ("MPR"). MPR requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate Station WIRN with reduced power.[1] In support of the request, MPR states that the intermediate power amplifier in the station's transmitter has failed and has been returned to the manufacturer for repairs.

Section 73.1560(d), which governs reduced power operation, states:

In the event it becomes technically impossible to operate at authorized power, a broadcast station may operate at reduced power for a period of not more than 30 days without specific authority from the FCC. If operation at reduced power will exceed 10 consecutive days, notification must be made to the FCC in Washington, DC, Attention: Audio Division (radio) or Video Division (television), Media Bureau, not later than the 10th day of the lower power operation. In the event that normal power is restored within the 30 day period, the licensee must notify the FCC of the date that normal operation was restored. If causes beyond the control of the licensee prevent restoration of the authorized power within 30 days, a request for Special Temporary Authority (see Section 73.1635) must be made to the FCC in Washington, DC for additional time as may be necessary.

Our review indicates that the request complies with Section 73.1560(d).

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. Station WIRN may operate with reduced power. MPR must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored. MPR must use whatever means are necessary to protect workers and the public from exposure to radio

[1] WIRN is licensed for operation on Channel 223C2 (92.5 MHz) with effective radiated power of 26 kilowatts (H&V) and antenna height above average terrain of 170 meters.

frequency radiation in excess of the Commission's exposure guidelines. *See* 47 CFR § 1.1310.

This authority expires on **March 19, 2012**.

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 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,

Charles N. Miller, Engineer
Audio Division
Media Bureau

cc: Minnesota Public Radio