

Grand Strand Communications, Inc.
FCC Form 337
Request for Extension of Time to Construct a Digital Television Station
WPDE-DT, Florence, South Carolina (Facility ID No. 17012)
File No. BPCDT-19991101AFV
BEPCDT-20020226ABO

EXHIBIT 1

Grand Strand Communications, Inc. ("Grand Strand"), licensee of WPDE and permittee of WPDE-DT, Florence, South Carolina, hereby requests an additional extension of time in which to construct the digital facilities for the above-referenced station. During the previous six months, Grand Strand diligently prepared for the construction and operation of the fully authorized WPDE facilities, intending to install the new digital transmission line and antenna on the 2,000 foot tower currently used for the WPDE analog facilities. Installation by the tower crew, T&C Communications, Inc. ("T&C"), was scheduled to begin at the end of May 2002. However, one of the tenants on the WPDE tower, Root Communications, Inc., licensee of WEGX-FM, refused to reduce the WEGX-FM transmitter output power, thereby making it impossible for the WPDE tower crew to access the tower. After the filing of emergency petitions at the FCC, and requests for a restraining order in the local South Carolina Dillon County Court, the Commission, by letter dated July 9, 2002, ordered Root to cooperate and reduce power as necessary to allow for installation of the WPDE-DT transmitter. As a result, Grand Strand was delayed for approximately 45-60 days in completing work on the tower.

Due to these delays, Grand Strand had to postpone the installation of the new digital transmitter manufactured by Axcera. Axcera's original date for installation of the new digital transmitter was a six week period beginning in July. Axcera's prerequisites calls for the removal of cranes and machinery used for the rigging. This removal must be complete prior to their staff of installers coming onto the tower / transmitter site. As of August 23, 2002, all such machinery has been removed. However, due to the busy Axcera schedule, the crew will not be available to begin the installation of the WPDE transmitter until November 1, 2002, for an estimated 6 weeks of work. All equipment for the transmitter is on site and will remain there in order to make installation as efficient as possible. Grand Stand expects to complete construction and testing of the full power WPDE digital facilities, and therefore able to commence on-air operations, no later than December 31, 2002.

As shown, Grand Stand had prepared to complete all necessary construction by the initial November 1, 2002, deadline. Due to an unforeseen problem with another tower tenant, which was only resolved as a result of Commission involvement, this schedule was delayed for reasons beyond Grand Stand's control. Therefore, it is filing this request for a six month extension so that it may have an ample period of time in which to prepare and complete construction.