

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
445 TWELFTH STREET SW  
WASHINGTON DC 20554**

**MEDIA BUREAU / OFFICE OF BROADCAST LICENSE POLICY  
AUDIO DIVISION  
APPLICATION STATUS:** (202) 418-2730  
**HOME PAGE:** [www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/](http://www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/)

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April 16, 2004

Christopher J. Sova, Esq.  
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2000 K Street NW, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20006-1809

**Re:** WFFX (FM), Southbridge, Massachusetts  
Facility Identification Number: 18310  
Citadel Broadcasting Company  
Special Temporary Authorization

Dear Counsel:

This is in reference to your letter dated March 30, 2004, filed on behalf of Citadel Broadcasting Company ("Citadel"). Citadel requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate Station WFFX with emergency antenna facilities pursuant to Section 73.1680.<sup>1</sup> In support of the request, Citadel states that the station observed excessive reflected power from the licensed antenna, and so has installed an emergency single-bay antenna on the licensed tower. STA is requested for continued use of the emergency antenna pending diagnosis and correction of the problem.

Section 73.1680 of the Commission's rules provides for operation with emergency antenna facilities following damage to authorized antenna systems, provided that an informal request for continued use of an emergency antenna is filed with the Commission within 24 hours. In particular, Section 73.1680(b)(2) provides that FM and TV stations may erect any suitable radiator, or use operable sections of the authorized antenna(s) as an emergency antenna. Our review indicates that the proposed STA operation complies with Section 73.1680 and with our STA policies.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. Station WFFX may continue to operate from its licensed site with the following facilities:

|                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Channel                   | 261 (100.1 MHz)     |
| Effective radiated power: | 0.76 kilowatt (H&V) |
| Antenna height:           |                     |
| above ground:             | 60 meters           |
| above mean sea level:     | 318 meters          |
| Above average terrain:    | 105 meters          |

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<sup>1</sup> WFFX is licensed for operation on Channel 261A (100.1 MHz) with effective radiated power of 2.85 kilowatts (Max-DA, H&V) and antenna height above average terrain of 146 meters.

Citadel must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored. Citadel 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 **July 16, 2004**.

**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,



↳ Edward P. DeLaHunt, Deputy Chief  
Audio Division  
Office of Broadcast License Policy  
Media Bureau

cc: Citadel Broadcasting Company