



October 30, 1998

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: MM Docket No. 87-268

Dear Ms. Salas:

National Broadcasting Company, Inc. (NBC), on behalf of itself and its wholly-owned licensee subsidiaries, submits the following report, pursuant to the requirements of the Fifth Report and Order in the above-referenced proceeding, regarding the status of its implementation of DTV broadcast facilities in Los Angeles, CA, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, PA, Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, Chicago, IL, and New York, NY.

KNBC-DT, Los Angeles, has initiated its program tests and is operating in accordance with its construction permit. **WRC-DT**, Washington, D.C., has initiated program test authority and is operating at reduced power until the changes to its physical plant are completed. **KXAS-DT**, Fort Worth/Dallas is operating with a temporary antenna at reduced power until installation of its permanent antenna is completed, which we expect to occur shortly.

WCAU, PHILADELPHIA, PA

WCAU-DT will not be able to initiate program test authority by November 1 due to circumstances that are entirely beyond our control. As the FCC is aware, because of the proximity of our antenna sites to the AM directional station WNWR, NBC, along with ABC, CBS and Fox, all of whom are at the same site, needed to coordinate the sequence of construction of our digital facilities in order for each of us to be able to conduct pre- and post-construction partial proofs of performance regarding any impact on WNWR, as required by the terms of our DTV construction permits. WCAU was scheduled to install our new DTV antenna after the other three stations completed their construction and post-construction proofs of performance. At the outset, the agreed-upon order of construction appeared to allow ample time for each of us to meet our November 1 commitment.

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Ms. Magalie Roman Salas

May 1, 1998

Page 2

However, due to delays in delivery of the necessary equipment for the new tower constructed by ABC and CBS, our construction schedule has been delayed. The other stations' construction has now been completed, but the partial proofs of performance measurements which are required before WCAU can install its DTV antenna will not be completed until sometime during the week of November 2. WCAU will complete the construction of its DTV facility as soon thereafter as possible and we will notify the FCC as soon as we have begun program tests.

WMAQ-TV, CHICAGO, IL

NBC committed to construct the DTV facilities for WMAQ-TV by November 1, 1998 subject to resolving the complicated tower location issue which had been identified to the Commission. See April 2, 1997 letter to Commissioners from John H. Rohrbeck, President, NBC Television Stations. As the FCC has previously been advised, WMAQ-TV has been diligent in its efforts to secure a site for its DTV antenna, but to date, has not yet reached an agreement with its current landlord for space for its DTV facilities. There has been progress on this matter and we continue to be hopeful that this situation will be resolved shortly. We will continue to work aggressively to be on the air as soon as possible.

WNBC, NEW YORK, NY

NBC committed to construct the DTV facilities for WNBC by November 1, 1998 subject to resolving the complicated tower location issue which had been identified to the Commission. See April 2, 1997 letter to Commissioners from John H. Rohrbeck, President, NBC Television Stations. As the FCC has been previously advised, WNBC has been diligent in its efforts to secure a site for its DTV antenna. We now have an agreement in principle with the landlord of the World Trade Center and will be filing our application for construction permit by November 2. We expect to order our equipment shortly, and have been advised by our suppliers that delivery may take nine months after the order is placed. Accordingly, WNBC will not be able to begin digital operations by May 1, 1999. Given the inherent uncertainties when installing an antenna atop a skyscraper, and recognizing the need to coordinate the installation so as not to impact the operation of the NTSC stations atop the World Trade Center, it is difficult at this time to estimate when installation will be completed. We will, of course, keep the FCC apprised of our progress.

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
May 1, 1998
Page 3

Kindly direct questions concerning this progress report to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


Diane Zipursky

cc: Chairman William E. Kennard
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Roy Stewart
Keith Larson
John Morgan