

W. RUSSELL WITHERS, JR.

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FRN # 0003-7805-66

July 7, 2006

Honorable Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Attention: Shaun Maher, Esquire
Video Division, Media Bureau
The Portals, Room 2-A820

RE: WDHS-DT, Iron Mountain, Michigan
FCC Facility ID No. 15498
Request for Waiver of July 1, 2006
"Replication/Maximization" Deadline

Dear Madame Secretary:

W. Russell Withers, Jr. (Withers), licensee of WDHS(TV) and WDHS-DT, Iron Mountain, Michigan, in accordance with FCC Public Notices DA 06-1255 and DA 06-1372, released June 14, 2006 and June 29, 2006, respectively, hereby respectfully requests a waiver of the July 1, 2006 "Replication/Maximization" Interference Protection Deadline.

In support whereof, Withers hereby claims that circumstances beyond its control have prevented it from meeting the July 1, 2006 deadline, and respectfully requests a waiver of this deadline, to permit it to continue serving the public interest, convenience and necessity.

Withers has owned and operated WDHS since 1997. WDHS is an independent station operating in the Marquette DMA, which is ranked by the Nielsen organization as the 180th largest television market (out of 210 DMAs) with just 89,160 television households. WDHS broadcasts religious programming.

With respect to the requested waiver, WDHS's existing tower will not support the weight of both a full-power analog and a full-power digital antenna. The leased real estate parcel where the WDHS tower is located is too small to accommodate a second tower to support a full-fledged digital antenna to replicate the analog coverage of

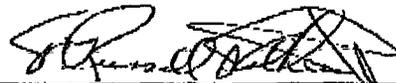
WDHS(TV). It is not feasible to duplex analog channel 8 and digital channel 22 (WDHS's assigned channels). To date, Withers has refurbished the analog channel 8 antenna so that it can operate digitally on channel 8 (WDHS-DT's ultimate channel allotment).

Withers is now broadcasting digitally pursuant to authority granted in File No. BDS1A-20050925BCO, as extended by File No. BEDSTA-20051122AIU, which Withers has applied to extend in a separate application (File No. BEDSTA-20060630AET). This operation is at 5.72 kW effective radiated power. If required to find a new transmitter site, Withers will apply for the requisite changes in its digital facility, so as to replicate the current coverage of analog Channel 8 WDHS and to maximize its digital facility. However, it would appear that both common sense and the public interest be best served by allowing Withers to continue on with the status quo until the date for cessation of analog transmissions (February 17, 2009), at which time full-fledged digital operation on Channel 8 (WDHS's ultimate digital assignment) can commence. Withers would accomplish the switch from analog to digital by means of a "flash cut".

The public interest, convenience and necessity would be well served by a grant of this waiver request. Withers hereby certifies that he is not subject to a denial of federal benefits pursuant to Section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, 21 U.S.C. §853a.

Respectfully submitted,

W. RUSSELL WITHERS, JR.



W. Russell Withers, Jr.
Sole Proprietor