

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Super Bowl 52® and related events, January 6 through February 15, 2018
Within 30 miles of U.S. Bank Stadium, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Special Temporary Authorization Request

This STA request will facilitate the operation of the NFL Super Bowl® at and near U.S. Bank Stadium, Minneapolis, Minnesota and the operations and logistics of arrangements before and briefly after this extremely large scale sporting event, beginning January 6, 2018. This year, the Super Bowl will occur on February 4, 2018. It is necessary to start the STA operations well in advance of the Super Bowl event on January 6, because the uses of the frequencies sought by this STA include security and operational communications used in converting the regular football stadium venue into the Super Bowl venue: work that begins on or about January 7, 2018.

The STA proposes the use of UHF spectrum constituting television broadcast channels 15 (476-482 MHz) and 18 (494-500 MHz). The locations of the major events associated with the Super Bowl are all within a 30-mile radius of U.S. Bank Stadium. The coordinates of the Stadium, where the game will be played, are as follows: 44° 58' 25" N, 093° 15' 27" W. Other sites of related events include the Mall of the Americas at 44° 51' 17" N, 093° 14' 31" W and Xcel Energy Stadium, at 44° 56' 41" N, 093° 06' 04" W.

With respect to the use of television broadcast channels 15 and 18, an engineering study conducted by Engineer Karl Voss shows that with one exception, there are no television, land mobile or other licensees authorized to use those channels within a 120-kilometer radius of the standard coordinates for the Stadium. The exception is KWJM-LD, which is a low-power digital television station on Channel 15 which is licensed but silent; the most recent STA for silent status having been granted for six months beginning September 11, 2017. Thus, Engineering calculations show that operations proposed in this STA will create no interference with reception of any broadcast television station that is on the air now, within their service areas. It is therefore believed that operation pursuant to this STA will not cause interference to any licensee or television viewer on either of the two channels. Engineer Karl Voss is associated with the NFL Frequency Organization program. He will be on site and will conduct real-time frequency coordination operations to preclude any interference on any of those two channels relative to broadcast auxiliary and other affected users. Karl Voss will coordinate as well with the local broadcast market frequency coordinator under the volunteer system sponsored by the Society of Broadcast Engineers, as has been done for many years for this event.

Similar STA grants have regularly and consistently been made by the Commission in past years (See, e.g. WB9XOU, file numbers 0496-EX-ST-2003 and 0002-EX-ST-2005; WC9XUY, file number 0901-EX-ST-2006; WD9XBT, file number 0510-EX-ST-2007; WD9XQM, file numbers 0602-EX-ST-2008, and 0524-EX-ST-2009; WE9XQR, file numbers 0602-EX-ST-2010 and 0795-EX-ST-2011; WH9XEU, file number 1165-EX-ST-2013; WI9XCX, file number 1146-EX-ST-2014; WJ9XGR, file number 1345-EX-ST-2015 and 1773-EX-ST-2016.

All operation will be coordinated in advance, as are all radio frequency operations in and around these events, by the frequency coordinators of the Society of Broadcast Engineers in the Minneapolis broadcast market, and on site by the NFL Frequency Organization Group of the National Football League.

The instant STA application specifies a maximum of 250 units to be deployed, but the number will likely be less than 250. That maximum number of units was granted by the Commission in previous years for the Super Bowl.

The active participation at the event by the NFL Frequency Organization Group, headed by Mr. Ralph Beaver, has avoided RF interference complaints at the past 20 Super Bowls through active, advance and real-time, on-site frequency coordination. The participation of the broadcast auxiliary frequency coordinator for the Minneapolis broadcast market will ensure that there is no interference in that broadcast market at this upcoming event. Any interference that cannot be immediately resolved will result in cessation of operation of the affected mobile operations on site.

Mr. Beaver will act as the “Stop Buzzer” contact on site. His telephone number on-site is 813-376-1313. Otherwise, any information can be obtained from counsel for the applicant:

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