

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Super Bowl 53® and related events, January 13 through February 6, 2018
Within 30 miles of Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta, Georgia
Special Temporary Authorization Request

This STA request will facilitate the operation of the NFL Super Bowl® at and near Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta, Georgia and the operations and logistics of arrangements before and briefly after this extremely large-scale sporting event, beginning January 13, 2019. This year, the Super Bowl will occur on February 3, 2019. It is necessary to start the STA operations well in advance of the Super Bowl event on January 13, 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 13, 2019.

The STA proposes the use of UHF spectrum constituting television broadcast channels 14 (470-476 MHz) **OR** 15 (476-482 MHz) **AND** Channel 18 (494-500 MHz). The reason that TV Channels 14 and 15 are specified in the alternative (though both channels are included in the instant application) is that now, a digital Low-Power television station, WAGC-LD, is currently licensed on TV Channel 14 and has a construction permit to operate on channel 15 in or near Atlanta. The NFL Frequency Organization Group has attempted to consult with the licensee to determine whether or not it will be making the channel change prior to or after the Super Bowl events, but to date has not received any response from the Licensee. If the channel change will be made before the Super Bowl events, the NFL would use the vacated Channel 14 frequencies. If after the Super Bowl events, the NFL would use the Channel 15 frequencies instead so as to avoid interference.

The locations of the major events associated with the Super Bowl are all within a 30-mile radius of Mercedes-Benz Stadium. The coordinates of the Stadium, where the game will be played, are as follows: 33° 45' 18" N, 84° 24' 04" W. The center of the campus for Super Bowl events is at 33° 45' 31" N, 84° 24' 54" W.

With respect to the use of television broadcast channels 14, 15 and 18, an engineering study conducted by Engineer Karl Voss shows that (*other than as indicated hereinabove*) 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. 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 three channels relative to broadcast, 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, 1773-EX-ST-2016, and 1794-EX-ST-2017).

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 Atlanta 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 22 Super Bowls through active, advance and real-time, on-site frequency coordination. The participation of the broadcast auxiliary frequency coordinator for the Atlanta 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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