

Petition for Reinstatement

The applicant, pursuant to Section 25.163(a) of the Commission's rules, petitions for the reinstatement of its registration for temporary-fixed earth station E060331. This petition for reinstatement is timely because a mere 10 days have passed between the expiration of the license for E060331 on October 11, 2021, and the filing of this petition.

The applicant's failure to file a timely renewal application was the result of two factors. First, the applicant erroneously believed that the grant of the modification of the license in 2016 caused the commencement of a new license term for the facility. While the Commission's rules indicate that modification of a license will not result in a change to the then-current license term, the licensee took delivery of a new satellite news gathering vehicle in 2016 which was the impetus for the license modification. While incorrect, it is not difficult to understand how a licensee could confuse the procurement of a new vehicle and attendant modification of authorization as triggering a new license term. Second, due to an administrative error, the applicant's counsel's tickler system failed to identify this authorization as expiring on October 10, 2021. Thus, the licensee's "second line of defense" embarrassingly failed to function as intended.

Section 25.163(a)(3) requires the applicant in a Petition for Reinstatement to "specif[y] the procedures that have been established to ensure timely filings in the future." Here, the applicant has been instructed that a license modification does not alter the existing license expiration date. In addition, counsel's tickler system is undergoing trouble-shooting to determine the reason for the failure to flag the expiration date prior to October 10, 2021.

We believe the public interest factors at issue here counsel in favor of a grant of this Petition for Reinstatement and a renewal of the authorization for E060331. More specifically, the licensee typically makes use of this facility in connection with its ownership and operation of broadcast stations as part of its mobile news gathering operations for the coverage of live, local events, especially breaking news and emergency situations, which the public relies upon.

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