

APPLICATION FOR EARTH STATION SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY

APPLICANT INFORMATION Enter a description of this application to identify it on the main menu:
WPBF Earth Station Special Temporary Authority

1. Applicant

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Attention:	Mark J Prak		

"60 days"



File # SES-STA-20090330-00382
Call Sign E090044 **Grant Date** 03/30/2009
(or other identifier)
Term Dates
From 04/03/2009 **To:** 06/01/2009
Approved: Eleanor M. Lott

Request for Special Temporary Authority

WPBF-TV Company (“WPBF”), the licensee of WPBF(TV), Tequesta, Florida, hereby respectfully requests special temporary authority, effective March 17, 2009, to commence operation of a new transportable transmit-receive earth station at the parameters specified in WPBF’s recently filed FCC Form 312 application (File No SES-LIC-20090319-00348). The call sign for this new facility is E090044. WPBF’s application was filed electronically with the Commission on March 19, 2009.

During the pendency of its application, WPBF requests temporary authority to commence operation at the parameters specified in the application so that it may immediately begin operating a new satellite newsgathering truck. The satellite truck will provide live news feeds to WPBF, and is critical to WPBF’s ability to provide on-the-spot coverage of important weather information and breaking news events to the public. This new truck is smaller than WPBF’s old satellite truck, and, as a result, the new truck can access locations that are not accessible by the vehicle that is currently in use.

In addition, at this time, WPBF is in the process of transitioning its 2 GHz ENG equipment, and, as a result of the Sprint-Nextel conversion process, some of WPBF’s microwave ENG receive sites are and will be compromised over the next several weeks. As a result, WPBF’s newsgathering activities will be relying more heavily on satellite transmission to provide live news coverage. Over the next several weeks, the new satellite truck is, therefore, an even more important component of live and emergency news coverage.

Finally, much of Florida is currently experiencing drought conditions. These drought conditions make certain areas more susceptible to wild fires, and emergency coverage of such conditions by WPBF would be facilitated by the immediate availability of the new satellite truck. Furthermore, according to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Florida has a “Deadly Spring Season” of tornadic activity from February through April. See <http://www.floridadisaster.org/bpr/EMTOOLS/Severe/tornadoes.htm>. Again, availability of the new satellite truck for use would facilitate the provision of emergency and news information about such tornadic activity to the public during these critical months.

Accordingly, grant of this request will serve the public interest by ensuring that the viewing public will continue to receive important emergency and live news programming from WPBF.

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