

AMC Networks Broadcasting and Technology
Station E010028
FCC Form 312

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY

By the associated FCC Form 312 and pursuant to Section 25.120(b)(3) of the rules, AMC Networks Broadcasting and Technology LLC (“AMC”) hereby requests special temporary authority (“STA”), for a period of 60 days to operate its transmit earth station from a remote location. Within the next 60 days, AMC will submit an application seeking permanent modification of its authorization for authorization to operate earth stations from a remote location. This STA request is one of five for which AMC seeks approval; all five stations serve the purposes, and are covered by the circumstances described below.

AMC’s affiliate, AMC Networks, Inc. operates several of the most popular and award-winning brands in television and film. Cable television networks [AMC](#), [BBC AMERICA](#) (through a joint venture with BBC Studios), [IFC](#), [SundanceTV](#), and [WE tv](#); independent film production and distribution division [IFC Films](#); and premium streaming video services [Sundance Now](#), [Shudder](#), [Acorn TV](#), [UMC](#) and [AMC Premiere](#), the offering that gives subscribers commercial-free access to AMC shows, produce and deliver distinctive, compelling and culturally relevant content that engages audiences across multiple platforms.

The earth station covered by this request is used to transmit programming to satellites that redistribute the programming to cable systems and other video-delivery platforms, that in turn redistribute the programming to their customers. As the Commission is aware, AMC is authorized to operate its transmit facilities at 620 Hicksville Road in Bethpage, NY. As required by the Commission’s rules, personnel are on-site to control the operations of the transmitter, including ceasing operations if circumstances or the Commission requires.

However, like many businesses, AMC has been required to modify its operations to address the potential threat to its personnel from the novel coronavirus. Indeed, the New York City metropolitan area, where the transmitter site is located, is one of the most severely affected areas in the country. As a result, AMC personnel may be required to work remotely and not at the transmitter site.

Accordingly, AMC seeks authority to operate the earth station transmit facility remotely. Remote control of the transmitter will comply with Section 25.271(c) of the rules. In particular:

- Consistent with Section 25.271(c)(1), the parameters of earth station and operational functions will be able to be operated remotely, via a laptop internet connection, as effectively as if personnel were on-site, ensuring compliance with the Commission’s rules. The laptop may be operated at any location; accordingly, no address is provided for the remote control location. Nevertheless, each laptop will be equipped with stringent security protections, to prevent unauthorized control of the transmitter. The AMC staff members to be provided access to the remote location via these secured laptops are:
 - Peter A. Palmisano, Director of RF Engineering, AMC Networks
peter.palmisano@amcnetworks.com Cell - 516 592-1990

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- James N. McGarvey, Supervisor of RF Engineering, AMC Networks
james.mcgarvey@amcnetworks.com Cell – 516 592-1979
- Richard Ferro, Manager of TOC, AMC Networks
Richard.Ferro@AMCNETWORKS.COM Cell – 516 592-1828
- Consistent with Section 25.271(c)(2), the earth station location is, and will continue to be protected by appropriate security measures, that will not change based on remote control.
- Consistent with Section 25.271(c)(3), AMC personnel listed above will be capable of immediately suspending operation of the station upon detection by the licensee or upon notification by the Commission, of a deviation or upon notification by another licensee of harmful interference. Those personnel will be able to re-initiate operations when interference has been resolved.
- Finally, consistent with Section 25.271(c)(4), AMC personnel will be available at all times to perform technical servicing and maintenance, if required.

STA will permit AMC to immediately transition operations to a remote location if required, preserving its ability to deliver programming and protecting the health of its personnel. In order to preserve this flexibility, AMC will submit applications for modification for its earth stations shortly. In the interim, it is in public interest for the Commission to grant STA.

If there are any questions regarding this request, the Commission should contact our counsel, Russell Fox (rfox@mintz.com) or Angela Kung (aykung@mintz.com) of Mintz.