

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
445 TWELFTH STREET SW  
WASHINGTON DC 20554**

**MEDIA BUREAU / OFFICE OF BROADCAST LICENSE POLICY  
AUDIO DIVISION  
APPLICATION STATUS:** (202) 418-2730  
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February 27, 2003

Mitzi T. Gramling, Esq.  
Associate General Counsel  
Minnesota Public Radio  
45 East Seventh Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-2274

Re: WGGL-FM, Houghton, Michigan  
Facility Identification Number : 42913  
Minnesota Public Radio  
Special Temporary Authorization

Dear Counsel:

This is in reference to your letter dated February 18, 2003, filed on behalf of Minnesota Public Radio ("MPR"). Special temporary authority ("STA") is requested to operate Station WGGL-FM with reduced power.<sup>1</sup>

In support of the request, MPR states that WGGL-FM has been operating with reduced power since January 24, 2003, due to failure of a power supply transformer. MPR states that a replacement transformer has been installed, but the transmitter still is not working properly and that it is uncertain why this is happening. MPR states that the site is in a forest in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and is accessible in winter only by snowmobile, so that repairs are difficult.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. Station WGGL-FM may continue to operate with reduced power. MPR must notify the Commission when licensed operation is restored. MPR must use whatever means are necessary to protect workers and the public from exposure to radio frequency radiation in excess of the Commission's exposure guidelines. See 47 CFR § 1.1310.

This authority expires on **August 27, 2003**.

**STA Advisory:** Section 309(f) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, authorizes the Commission to grant STA in cases of "extraordinary circumstances requiring temporary authorizations in the public interest and when delay in the institution of the temporary operations would seriously prejudice the public interest." However, Section 309(f) is not a means by which

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<sup>1</sup> WGGL-FM is licensed for operation on Channel ( MHz) with effective radiated power of kilowatts (H&V) and antenna height above average terrain of meters.

a licensee/permittee may circumvent established processing procedures which require the filing of an application, nor is it a means by which a broadcaster may enhance his facility or make operation more convenient for the broadcaster. Stations operating with less than licensed facilities under temporary authorities can be viewed as receiving the benefit of a larger protection area than that in which they are currently providing service.


Accordingly, Special Temporary Authorities by nature are to be temporary and are not intended for extended use. Licensees of stations operating under temporary authorities are reminded that timely restoration of permanent facilities is the responsibility of the licensee and should be undertaken expeditiously. Any request for extension of special temporary authorities carries an increased burden with each subsequent request.

Therefore, requests for extension of STA will be granted only where the licensee can show that one or more of the following criteria have been met:

- Restoration of licensed facilities is complete and testing is underway;
- Substantial progress has been made during the most recent STA period toward restoration of licensed operation; or
- No progress has been made during the most recent STA period for reasons clearly beyond the licensee's control, and the licensee has taken all possible steps to expeditiously resolve the problem.

Sincerely,



 Edward P. De La Hunt, Associate Chief  
Audio Division  
Office of Broadcast License Policy  
Media Bureau

cc: Minnesota Public Radio