



Federal Communications Commission
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Re: Applications for Assignment of Licenses from

Subsidiaries of Allen Media, LLC
LMS File No. 0000277205
LMS File No. 0000277206
LMS File No. 0000277208

to

Gray Television Licensee, LLC

Dear Counsel:

The Video Division, Media Bureau (Bureau), has before it the above-referenced applications (Applications) seeking consent to the assignment of the licenses of broadcast television stations WLFI-TV, Lafayette, Indiana; WTHI-TV, Terre Haute, Indiana; and WTVA(TV), Tupelo, Mississippi (collectively, Stations), from subsidiaries of Allen Media, LLC (Allen Media),¹ to Gray Television Licensee, LLC (Gray). DIRECTV, LLC (DIRECTV), filed a petition to deny the Applications.² In addition, multiple organizations and coalitions filed comments opposing the Applications, which we will treat as informal objections (collectively, Objections), pursuant to section 73.3587 of the Commission's rules,³ including: Georgia Cable Association, Illinois Broadband & Cable Association, Indiana Cable and Broadband Association, and Tennessee Cable & Broadband Association (collectively, Cable Associations);⁴ Business Forward;⁵ a coalition of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander

¹ The Allen Media subsidiary licensees of the Stations are, respectively, Lafayette TV License Company, LLC; Terre Haute TV License Company, LLC; and Mississippi TV License Company, LLC. The Applications are available in the Commission's Licensing and Management System (LMS).

² Petition to Deny of DIRECTV, LLC, LMS Pleading File No. 0000280897 (filed Nov. 18, 2025) (Petition).

³ 47 CFR § 73.3587.

⁴ Comments of Georgia Cable Association, Illinois Broadband & Cable Association, Indiana Cable and Broadband Association, and Tennessee Cable & Broadband Association, LMS Pleading File No. 0000284189 (filed Dec. 5, 2025) (Cable Associations Objection).

⁵ Comments of Business Forward, LMS Pleading File No. 0000284195 (filed Dec. 6, 2025) (Business Forward Objection).

communities (AANHPI Coalition);⁶ and a coalition of civil rights, consumer protection, and public interest organizations (Civil Rights Coalition).⁷ For the reasons set forth below, we deny the Petition and Objections—only with respect to the Applications—and we grant the Applications.

Background. On September 22, 2025, the Bureau released a single Public Notice, accepting for filing, and establishing a pleading cycle for, three sets of assignment applications, including the Applications, to Gray.⁸ It did so purely “as a matter of administrative convenience,”⁹ not because the Transactions are financially or legally connected. The Bureau further “emphasize[d] that [it] will not necessarily process these applications simultaneously.”¹⁰

In its Petition, DIRECTV objected to the Transactions to the extent that they propose to create new local concentration.¹¹ The Cable Associations “support” the DIRECTV Petition, and oppose Gray’s “pursuit of further local market concentration.”¹² The rest of the Objections were filed in the docket for an unrelated transaction,¹³ cross-referencing the Transactions by LMS file number and alleging that the Transactions would permit Gray to achieve “unprecedented” and “extreme” levels of local concentration.¹⁴

Subsequent to the filing of DIRECTV’s Petition, on November 26, 2025, Allen Media and Gray jointly requested expedited Commission action on the Applications, noting that, while the caption to

⁶ Comments of Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote, Empowering Pacific Islander Communities, Japanese American Citizens League, National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates, and Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, LMS Pleading File No. 0000284451 (filed Dec. 10, 2025) (AANHPI Objection).

⁷ Objection of National Civil Rights Organizations to Major Local TV Consolidation Transactions, LMS Pleading File No. 0000284499 (filed Dec. 10, 2025) (Civil Rights Coalition Objection). The member organizations of the Civil Rights Coalition are: Asian Americans Advancing Justice; Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote; Common Cause; Consumer Action; Hispanic Tech and Telecommunications Partnerships; Japanese American Citizens League; LGBT Tech; MANA, A National Latina Organization; Multicultural Media & Correspondents Association; Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council; NAACP; National Action Network; National Black Justice Collective; National Coalition on Black Civic Participation; National Council of Asian Pacific Americans; National Council of Negro Women; National Hispanic Media Coalition; National LGBTQ Taskforce Action Fund; National Newspaper Publishers Association; National Urban League; OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates; Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund; and The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

⁸ *Media Bureau Establishes Pleading Cycle for Three Sets of Assignment Applications to Gray Television Licensee, LLC, from Subsidiaries of (1) SagamoreHill Broadcasting II, LLC; (2) Block Communications, Inc.; and (3) Allen Media, LLC*, Public Notice, DA 25-876 (MB Sept. 22, 2025) (Public Notice). We refer to these applications, collectively, as the Transactions.

⁹ Public Notice at 2.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Petition at 5-6 & n.21.

¹² Cable Associations Objection at 2.

¹³ *Media Bureau Establishes Pleading Cycle for Applications to Transfer Control of TEGNA Inc. to Nexstar Media Inc. and Permit-But-Disclose Ex Parte Status for the Proceeding*, MB Docket No. 25-331, Public Notice, DA 25-1000 (MB Dec. 1, 2025).

¹⁴ See Civil Rights Coalition Objection at 2; AANHPI Objection at 1; see also Business Forward Objection at 2 (expressing concern that Gray’s proposed acquisitions are “concentrated in several markets,” where it would control multiple stations and major network affiliations).

DIRECTV's Petition includes the LMS file numbers for the Applications, the content of the Petition "makes clear that DIRECTV does not 'object to [the] proposed transfers' of the Stations to Gray, because these transfers do not create any new in-market combinations."¹⁵ On December 2, 2025, DIRECTV filed a letter responding to the Request for Expedited Action that "confirms that DIRECTV does not object to these specific assignments and thus does not object to Applicants' request for expedition."¹⁶ The Cable Associations, however, maintain that they "oppose the Transactions in their entirety."¹⁷ Business Forward, the AANHPI Coalition, and the Civil Rights Coalition, likewise, do not distinguish between the Applications and the rest of the Transactions.

Discussion. Section 310(d) of the Act provides that no station license shall be transferred or assigned except upon application to the Commission and upon a finding by the Commission "that the public interest, convenience, and necessity will be served thereby."¹⁸ In making this determination, we first assess whether the proposed transaction complies with the specific provisions of the Act, other applicable statutes, and the Commission's rules.¹⁹ If the proposed transaction does not violate a statute or rule, we then consider whether the transaction could result in public interest harms by substantially frustrating or impairing the objectives or implementation of the Act or related statutes.²⁰

Each of the Stations would be the first full power television station owned by Gray in its assigned Nielsen Designated Market Area (DMA).²¹ For this reason, as already noted, DIRECTV has clarified that it does not object to grant of the Applications.²² The remaining Objections, in articulating concerns about local market concentration, do not acknowledge this distinction or even identify the Stations by call sign.²³ Thus, with respect to the Applications, the Objections clearly fail to satisfy the applicable standard of review, which requires a petition to deny (or informal objection) to "contain specific allegations of fact sufficient to show to that . . . grant of the application would be prima facie inconsistent with" the public interest.²⁴

Finally, based on our own review of the Applications and the record in this matter, we find that the Applications fully comply with the Commission's rules. In addition, we have not identified any other issues or potential public interest harms that would require further consideration. We therefore conclude

¹⁵ Joint Request for Expedited Commission Action of Lafayette TV License Company, LLC, Terre Haute TV License Company, LLC, Mississippi TV License Company, LLC, and Gray Television Licensee, LLC, LMS Pleading File No. 0000281730, at 2 and n.2 (filed Nov. 26, 2025) (Request for Expedited Action).

¹⁶ DIRECTV Non-Opposition to Joint Request, LMS Pleading File No. 0000282000, at 1 (filed Dec. 2, 2025).

¹⁷ Cable Associations Objection, LMS Pleading File No. 0000284189, at 2 n.3 (filed Dec. 5, 2025).

¹⁸ 47 U.S.C. § 310(d).

¹⁹ *Applications for Consent to the Transfer of Control of Paramount Global*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 40 FCC Rcd 5689, 5701, para. 25 (2025).

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ The DMAs are: Lafayette, IN; Terre Haute; and Columbus-Tupelo-West Point.

²² Bureau staff also has been informed by the United States Department of Justice that it does not intend to take any action with respect to the transactions proposed in the Applications.

²³ In the lone exception, the Cable Associations incorrectly characterize Gray's acquisition of WTVA as giving it a new "duopoly," because the station broadcasts two network-affiliated programming streams. Cable Associations Objection at 9, n.26.

²⁴ 47 U.S.C. § 309(d)(1).

that grant of the Applications would serve the public interest.

Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED**, pursuant to sections 4(i) and (j), and 310(d) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 154(j), 310(d), and pursuant to the authority delegated under section 0.283 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 0.283, that the Applications, seeking consent to assignment of the licenses of broadcast television stations WLFI-TV, Lafayette, Indiana; WTHI-TV, Terre Haute, Indiana; and WTVA(TV), Tupelo, Mississippi, from subsidiaries of Allen Media, LLC, to Gray Television Licensee, LLC, **ARE GRANTED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to sections 4(i) and (j), 309, and 310(d) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 154(j), 309, 310(d), that, only with respect to the Applications, the Petition to Deny (LMS Pleading File No. 0000280897) filed by DIRECTV, LLC, and the Objections, as defined herein (LMS Pleading File Nos. 0000284189; 0000284195; 0000284451; and 0000284499), **ARE DENIED**.

Sincerely,

/s/

David J. Brown
Chief, Video Division
Media Bureau