

## **WKAR PUBLIC MEDIA • COMMUNICATIONS**

Michigan State University • 404 Wilson Road, Room 212 • East Lansing, MI • 48824

**Contact:** Julie Sochay, WKAR Content and Community Engagement Manager  
(517) 884-4773 [JSochay@wkar.org](mailto:JSochay@wkar.org)

Gary Blievernicht, WKAR Technical Services Manager, is available for interview and additional background information. Contact Julie Sochay to arrange.

PHOTO: The WKAR-TV broadcast tower. WKAR File photo.  
High resolution image available on request.

### **Changes Ahead for Antenna TV Viewers**

*Plan to rescan to continue receiving free TV  
PBS affiliate WKAR to be first area station to move to new frequency*

**EAST LANSING, MI; Apr. 20, 2018** -- An estimated 15% of households in mid-Michigan receive television free, over-the-air, via antenna.

Viewers in those households will have to rescan their TV tuners periodically over the next two years, as WKAR-TV and other local stations move to new broadcast frequencies assigned by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The frequency reassignments are part of a project by the FCC to make room in the broadcast spectrum for wireless broadband services and new digital TV technologies. By law, nearly 1,000 TV stations nationwide must change broadcast frequencies by the spring of 2020.

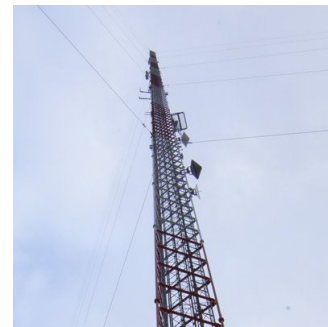
No new devices, equipment or services will be needed to continue receiving the local stations. Antenna TV viewers must simply go into their tuner channel settings and rescan to locate stations after each makes their assigned change.

WKAR-TV East Lansing at Michigan State University will be one of the first stations in the country to make the move, on or sometime after May 9. WSYM and WLAJ will be moving in about two years.

To make the move, WKAR is replacing the main broadcast antenna that sits atop the station's 1000-foot tower, plus a twenty-year-old transmitter, the transmission line to the antenna, and an auxiliary antenna.

It's a \$2 million project for WKAR, paid for almost entirely by the proceeds of the recent FCC spectrum auction.

Beginning April 20 through completion of the project in May, WKAR TV and 90.5 FM and 105.1 FM will be broadcasting at substantially reduced power as crews work on the transmitter and



-- MORE --

antenna. This may result in poor or no reception for some viewers and listeners. FM broadcasts are affected by the work because the TV and FM broadcast antennas are on the same tower.

There will also be short periods when the stations are off the air entirely for crew safety when working on the antenna.

Comcast and AT&T Uverse services will not be affected by the work; however, other pay TV service providers receive the WKAR signal over the air, and they will be adversely impacted.

All WKAR original TV programming and much of the PBS content is available for on-demand viewing at [video.wkar.org](http://video.wkar.org) and in the PBS channel on streaming devices. Online listening services will not be affected.

When WKAR completes the work and returns to the air at full power, WKAR-TV will continue to appear at channels 23.1, 23.2, 23.3, and 23.4 after a rescan for channels.

To learn more about the upcoming changes, visit the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) website at [tvanswers.org](http://tvanswers.org).

Updates and more info about the WKAR-TV project are at [wkar.org](http://wkar.org).

#### **About WKAR Public Media**

WKAR Public Media is Michigan's capital region source for award-winning original television and radio, and the best from PBS and NPR. WKAR is part of Michigan State University College of Communication Arts & Sciences and includes WKAR-TV, WKAR Radio, [wkar.org](http://wkar.org), WKAR Radio Reading Service, WKAR Family, and WKAR Ready to Learn.

#####