

# TV TECHNOLOGY

THE DIGITAL TELEVISION AUTHORITY

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REPRINTED FROM JUNE 27, 2007

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## USER REPORT

# PSI Service Gets High Marks At Barrington

by Keith Bland  
Senior Vice President  
Technical Operations  
Barrington Broadcasting Company

### HOFFMAN ESTATES, ILL.

In 2004 Barrington Broadcasting acquired a construction permit for Channel 46 in Bay City, Mich. from Acme Television. Although a good deal of preliminary work had already been done by Acme, we still needed to construct a tower and transmitter facility. Also due to Canadian border issues, the facility would have to use a custom directional antenna that had been designed by Propagation Systems Inc.

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The WBSF Channel 46 PSI antenna is hoisted into place.

### ANTENNA AND FEEDLINE

In preliminary conversations with PSI, the concept of having the company not only provide the antenna and transmission line, but also handle the entire project on a

turnkey basis. PSI agreed to manage the project, which included the design and construction of a new transmitter building as well as the erection of a 1,000 foot tower.

PSI handled all aspects of this project,

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including working with the various local, state and federal governments to obtain all necessary zoning and construction permits, contracting for the tower and transmitter building and installation of the UHF transmitter.

This was my first experience in using a third party to manage a project of this magnitude and I will admit that we entered into the relationship with PSI with some wariness. As it turned out, my fears were unfounded. Although the permitting process was excruciatingly slow and tedious, the PSI engineers worked through the issues and we finally were able to begin actual construction in late summer of 2006.

#### WORKED THROUGH SNAGS

The usual minor snags were encountered during the construction process, but the PSI folks stuck with it and worked through each issue. We turned on WBSF as a CW affiliate

**the folks at PSI showed remarkable attention to detail as well as creative problem-solving skills and managed this project to a successful conclusion.**

**We have been operating WBSF in conjunction with our NBC affiliate WEYI-TV in the Flint-Saginaw-Bay City market with virtually no technical problems since September 2006.**

in fall of 2006 with virtually no problems.

While this project was under way, we at Barrington were very busy growing our company through acquisitions that brought us to our current portfolio of 21 television stations across 15 markets. In retrospect, I don't think that we could have handled the construction of WBSF using only in-house resources.

The design and construction of WBSF was fraught with complications and frustration, but the folks at PSI showed remarkable attention to detail as well as creative problem-solving skills and managed this project to a successful conclusion.

We have been operating WBSF in conjunction with our NBC affiliate WEYI-TV in the Flint-Saginaw-Bay City market with virtually no technical problems since September 2006.

Given the complexity of the WBSF project I was very pleased with the efforts of PSI and its engineering team.

*Keith Bland is the senior vice president, technical operations for Barrington Broadcasting Co. He may be contacted at [kbland@barringtontv.com](mailto:kbland@barringtontv.com).*

*For additional information contact PSI at 814-472-5540 or visit [www.psibroadcast.com](http://www.psibroadcast.com).*



## Propagation Systems, Inc.

### Quality Broadcast Antenna Systems