

Green Bank Observatory

Triggered Observations Policy

Triggered proposals are for pre-planned observations of transients whose event times are unknown *a priori*. Well defined triggering criteria are required.

Triggered proposal for open skies observations must be submitted at the normal February 1 or August 1 proposal deadlines.

Similar to fixed and windowed observations, triggered proposals should be ranked in the top quartile to be accepted with an A ranking. Triggered proposals ranked below the top quartile would only be accepted as a result highly unusual circumstances and would receive a B or C ranking.

Once a trigger is activated, the following guidelines will be followed:

1. A triggered observation will not be allowed to automatically override a sponsored time observation. If the trigger has an A ranking and time permits, the GBT scheduler will attempt to negotiate with any sponsor to determine if the sponsored observation can be rescheduled in a reasonable and timely fashion to allow the triggered observation to occur.
2. A triggered observation will not be allowed to override a fixed time observation (such as a VLBI observation or a pulsar Shapiro delay observation, *etc.*).
3. A triggered observation will only be allowed to occur under high frequency observing conditions if the trigger has an A ranking. B or C ranked triggered observations will be limited to low frequency weather condition observing.
4. A triggered observation can not override a windowed observation's default time. The GBT scheduler will work with the windowed observation's proposal team to secure a new default observing time when possible. Only an A ranked triggered observation will be allowed to move a windowed observation to be under high frequency observing conditions.
5. A triggered observation will not be allowed to automatically override a maintenance period, a maintenance chance, shutdown periods, or any other time when telescope motion is not permitted (Thanksgiving and Christmas shutdowns, high winds, snow, *etc.*). If the triggered observation has an A ranking, the GBT scheduler will work with the GBT Head Engineer to determine if the observation can occur without interference to necessary maintenance activities if the observation can be scheduled on a maintenance day or a maintenance day chance.