



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Aviation
Administration

61189298

800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591

APR 5 1999

Mr. Frank Wright
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Engineering and Technology
2000 M Street, NW., Suite 230
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Wright:

About six months ago, the Boeing Sea Launch LLC requested an experimental license from the Federal Communications Commission to perform tests on their telemetry transmitters on the frequencies 1010.5 MHz and 1018 MHz at their homeport in Long Beach, CA. The tests were successfully completed. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), however, will not agree to any additional telemetry tests by Sea Launch in the Long Beach area and for that matter any other location in the United States. Representatives for the Sea Launch project stated that for all subsequent launches, their telemetry operations will be performed in an appropriately allocated frequency band.

The FAA had serious concerns about the telemetry use of the frequency band 960-1215 MHz, which is allocated exclusively to the aeronautical radionavigation service worldwide. In order to help promote the commercial space industry, and help Sea Launch meet its scheduled first launch, the FAA allowed Sea Launch to perform the needed telemetry tests at Long Beach and San Clemente Island under specific conditions through a special temporary authority. This required that Notices to Airmen be issued for the turning off of three distance measuring equipment near Los Angeles International Airport. The FAA also had to obtain permission from local city officials to violate the noise abatement agreement for the duration of the tests as a result of re-routing air traffic. The FAA is willing to assist Sea Launch to identify appropriately allocated spectrum for their telemetry tests and operations.

If you require any additional information, please contact Mr. Michael Richmond, Spectrum Planning and International Division, at (202) 493-4157.

Sincerely,


Gerald J. Markey
Program Director for Spectrum
Policy and Management

CC:

Alan D. Stewart, Project Manager
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