



August 9, 1999

VIA HAND DELIVERY

James R. Burtle, Acting Chief
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Engineering and Technology
Experimental Licensing Branch
445 12th St. S.W.
Washington DC 20554

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**Re: XM Satellite Radio Inc.
File No. 0199-EX-PL-1999
REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING**

Dear Mr. Burtle:

XM Satellite Radio Inc. ("XM Radio") hereby requests expedited processing of its FCC Form 442 requesting a national experimental authorization to test S-band Digital Audio Radio Service ("DARS") terrestrial repeaters in its licensed frequency band (2332.5-2345 MHz). *See* File No. 0199-EX-PL-1999. As XM Radio indicated in its application, filed July 14, 1999, the proposed testing is needed to facilitate the efficient design and deployment of its prospective DARS repeater networks.

XM Radio has learned that, because of current staff assignments and summer vacation schedules at the Experimental Licensing Branch, XM Radio's application for national experimental authority is unlikely to be acted on until September. Given the scope of the national testing required for the successful development of XM Radio's DARS system, it is crucial that XM Radio's experimental request be processed by no later than August 18, 1999. Without such expedited processing, XM Radio could fall substantially behind schedule in the design and deployment of its DARS network. Accordingly, XM Radio respectfully requests that the Branch make whatever reassignments are necessary to complete processing of its application by August 18.

Please direct any questions regarding this matter to the undersigned or to Steve Berman at Fisher Wayland Cooper Leader & Zaragoza L.L.P. at (202) 429-4683.

Very truly yours,

Lon C. Levin
Senior Vice President, Regulatory

cc: Carl Huie, FCC ✓