

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

IN REPLY REFER TO:
0800B3

September 18, 1996

Ms. Karis A. Hastings
Hogan & Hartson, L.L.P.
Columbia Square
555 Thirteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 2004-1109

Reference: Request for Special Temporary Authority for Satcom K-2
(File No. 128-SAT-STA-96)

Dear Ms. Hastings:

GE American Communications, Inc. (GE Americom) has requested an extension of special temporary authority to operate its Satcom K-2 domestic fixed-satellite beyond its license term. In a July 30, 1996 amendment to its STA request, GE Americom seeks to modify its Satcom K-2 satellite to co-locate it with Satcom K-1 at 85° W.L.

Satcom K-2 was placed into service at 81° W.L. on December 19, 1985. GE Americom estimates that Satcom K-2 will be able to continue to provide reliable service to its customers and is seeking an extension of temporary authority through December 19, 1996.

In its modification amendment, GE Americom requests authority to co-locate Satcom K-2 satellite with Satcom K-1 at 85° W.L. when GE-1 is launched and operational. Satcom K-2's traffic is scheduled to be transferred to GE-1 once that satellite is fully operational. Upon colocation, Satcom K-2 will provide backup capacity and continued service to Satcom K-1 customers when Satcom K-1 exhausts its stationkeeping fuel supply. It is estimated that Satcom K-1's fuel supply will be exhausted by October 1, 1996, prior to the launch of Satcom K-1's replacement, GE-2, scheduled for launch in the first quarter of 1997.

Pursuant to Section 0.261 of the Commission's rules on delegations of authority, 47 C.F.R. § 0.261, this confirms special temporary authority, granted verbally September 13, 1996. GE American Communications, Inc. is authorized to operate its Satcom K-2 satellite until further order of the Commission, but not beyond December 19, 1996. Operations are subject to same terms and conditions of Satcom K-2's original authorization, as modified here.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Tycz
Chief, Satellite and Radiocommunication Division
International Bureau