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July 30, 1996

BY HAND DELIVERY

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

Attention: Fern J. Jarmulnek
Chief, Satellite Policy Branch
Satellite and Radiocommunication Division
International Bureau

Re: **Amendment of GE American Communications, Inc. to
Request for Special Temporary Authority to Continue
Operations on Satcom K-2, File No. 128-SAT-STA-96**

EXPEDITED ACTION REQUESTED

Dear Ms. Jarmulnek:

Enclosed on behalf of GE American Communications, Inc. ("GE Americom") are an original and four copies of an amendment to GE Americom's pending June 19 request for further special temporary authority to continue operations on Satcom K-2, File No. 128-SAT-STA-96. The amendment requests that GE Americom be permitted to move Satcom K-2 from its current 81° W.L. position to collocate it with Satcom K-1 at 85° W.L. once GE-1 is operational. Because GE-1 is scheduled to be launched August 30, we request expedited action on this request, no later than September 9.

As the amendment demonstrates in more detail, allowing GE Americom to re-locate Satcom K-2 once its traffic has been transferred to GE-1 will serve the public interest by permitting continued service to customers currently on Satcom K-1 pending the launch of GE-2 in the first quarter of 1997.

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.
Ms. Fern J. Jarmulnek
July 30, 1996
Page 2

Furthermore, Satcom K-2 is virtually identical to Satcom K-1 and thus will not create a difference in environment to adjacent satellites.

Because there is no filing fee specified in the Commission's rules for this amendment, we are filing the amendment in Washington. For timing reasons, the attached amendment bears a faxed signature. The original signature will be forwarded as soon as possible. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions regarding this request.

Respectfully submitted,



Karis A. Hastings
Counsel for GE American
Communications, Inc.

Enclosures

cc: Columbia, Maryland Field Office
Kathleen Campbell
Michael McCoin

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of Application by)
)
GE AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS, INC.) File No. 128-SAT-STA-96
)
For Special Temporary Authority for)
Satcom K-2)

AMENDMENT OF GE AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

GE American Communications, Inc. ("GE Americom") hereby amends its above-captioned application for special temporary authority to continue operating Satcom K-2. Specifically, GE Americom requests authority to relocate Satcom K-2 from its current 81° W.L. orbital location to collocate with Satcom K-1 at the 85° W.L. orbital location once GE-1 is launched and operational. Grant of this application will serve the public interest by promoting efficient use of orbital resources and by providing backup capacity for traffic on Satcom K-1. Because the GE-1 launch is currently scheduled for August 30, GE Americom requests expedited action no later than September 9 on this request.

Satcom K-2 was placed into service at the 81° W.L. orbital location on December 19, 1985, with a ten-year license term that expired December 19, 1995. Subsequent to that date, GE Americom has continued to operate Satcom K-2 pursuant to requests for special temporary authority. 1/ GE Americom requested

1/ See File No. 36-SAT-STA-96; File No. 128-SAT-STA-96.

such authority based, in part, on its intention that traffic from Satcom K-2 be transferred to GE-1, which is currently scheduled to be launched into the 103° W.L. position on August 30.

Satcom K-1 was placed into service at the 85° W.L. orbital location on January 29, 1986, with a ten-year license term that expired January 29, 1996. GE Americom has requested special temporary authority to continue operating Satcom K-1. ^{2/} However, it is anticipated that Satcom K-1 will exhaust its fuel supply available for station-keeping after approximately October 1, 1996.

We now request authority to collocate Satcom K-2 with Satcom K-1 at 85° W.L. once traffic from K-2 can be transferred to GE-1. Moving Satcom K-2 is critically important to permit "bridge service" to Primestar. Primestar is currently using Satcom K-1 and will take follow-on service from GE-2 after that satellite is launched into the 85° W.L. slot in the first quarter of 1997. Bridge service is needed to permit GE Americom to provide continuous service to Primestar during the period between the end of life of Satcom K-1 and the time GE-2 becomes operational.

No alternative solution to moving K-2 to 85° is possible because any alternative would require physically reorienting well over one million antennas at consumer homes, a feat that would take months to accomplish. Because Satcom

^{2/} See File No. 35-SAT-STA-96; File No. 132-SAT-STA-96.

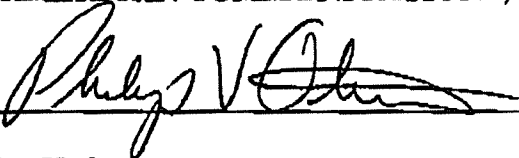
K-1 and Satcom K-2 are virtually identical, adjacent satellites will not experience any harmful interference as a result of the relocation of Satcom K-2.

GE American Communications, Inc. hereby certifies that no party to this application is subject to a denial of federal benefits pursuant to § 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, 21 U.S.C. § 853a.

For the reasons given above, GE Americom amends its pending STA request and seeks authority to collocate Satcom K-2 with Satcom K-1 at 85° W.L. once current traffic on Satcom K-2 is transferred to GE-1.

Respectfully submitted,

GE AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

By: 

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