

PAUL, WEISS, RIFKIND, WHARTON & GARRISON LLP
1615 L STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20036-5694
TELEPHONE (202) 223-7300 FACSIMILE (202) 223-7420

1285 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS
NEW YORK, NY 10019-6064
TELEPHONE (212) 373-3000
FACSIMILE (212) 757-3990

JEFFREY H. OLSON
COMMUNICATIONS COUNSEL
TELEPHONE (202) 223-7326
E-MAIL: jolson@paulweiss.com

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Policy Branch
International Bureau Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

July 19, 2004

62, RUE DU FAUBOURG SAINT-HONORÉ
75008 PARIS, FRANCE
TELEPHONE (33 1) 53 43 14 14
FACSIMILE (33 1) 53 43 00 23

FUKOKU SEIMEI BUILDING
2-2 UCHISAIWAICHO 2-CHOME
CHIYODA-KU, TOKYO 100-0011, JAPAN
TELEPHONE (81-3) 3597-8101
FACSIMILE (81-3) 3597-8120

2918 CHINA WORLD TOWER II
NO. 1 JIANGUOMENWAI DAJIE
BEIJING, 100004
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
TELEPHONE (86-10) 6505-6622
FACSIMILE (86-10) 6505-6630

12TH FLOOR, HONG KONG CLUB BUILDING
3A CHATER ROAD, CENTRAL
HONG KONG
TELEPHONE (852) 2536-9933
FACSIMILE (852) 2536-9622

ALDER CASTLE
10 NOBLE STREET
LONDON EC2V 7JU, U.K.
TELEPHONE (44 20) 7367 1600
FACSIMILE (44 20) 7367 1650

Intl Bureau

JUL 21 2004

Front Office

By Hand

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Application of SkyBridge II L.L.C. for Authority to Launch and
Operate the SkyBridge II System, December 22, 1997,
SAT-LOA-19971222-00221; SAT-AMD-20031104-00323

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter is submitted by SkyBridge II L.L.C. ("SkyBridge II") in response to the *Public Notice* issued by the International Bureau on June 16, 2004¹ (the "*Public Notice*"), requiring certain satellite applicants contemplating post-mission disposal by atmospheric re-entry to file a casualty risk assessment by July 19, 2004.

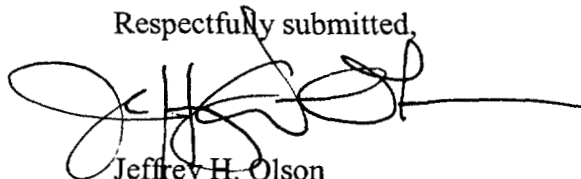
In the above-referenced application, SkyBridge II indicated that the "method for disposal of the SkyBridge II satellites at the end of their operational lives has not been definitively determined," and that atmospheric re-entry and/or storage orbit could be used.² SkyBridge II hereby notifies the Commission that SkyBridge II intends

¹ *Public Notice*, DA 04-1724, Report No. SPB-208, June 16, 2004.

² SAT-AMD-20031104-00323, Exhibit C to Form 312, at 2. As SkyBridge II also noted, the plans for post-mission disposal of spacecraft are developed in detail as part of the design process for the spacecraft, and SkyBridge II would be able to provide greater specificity on its plans for spacecraft disposal as those plans are further developed in accordance with the standard design review process. *Id.* As indicated in NASA Safety Standard 1740.14 (at 2-3), orbital mitigation assessment reports should be completed in connection with the preliminary design review ("PDR") and critical design review ("CDR") of the spacecraft. More specifically, according to NASA, the PDR debris assessment should identify debris generation issues, and, where possible, assess those issues, and the CDR assessment should identify, assess, and resolve all debris issues in detail. Because the SkyBridge II system has not yet been licensed, the clock on the milestone requirements for the standard design review process, including CDR, where orbital debris mitigation plans are finalized, has not yet begun to run.

to employ storage orbit for disposal of the SkyBridge II spacecraft. Therefore, a casualty risk assessment for atmospheric re-entry is not relevant or required. Updated information on the SkyBridge II orbital debris mitigation plan will be filed in accordance with the requirements of the *Second Report and Order* in the Commission's proceeding on Mitigation of Orbital Debris.³

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey H. Olson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeffrey H. Olson
Diane C. Gaylor
Attorneys for
SkyBridge II L.L.C.

cc: Tom Tycz
Jennifer Gilsenan
Sankar Persaud

³ Mitigation of Orbital Debris, *Second Report and Order*, IB Docket No. 02-54 (FCC 04-130, June 21, 2004). The deadline for filing updated orbital debris mitigation plans depends on the date of publication of the *Second Report and Order* in the Federal Register. Such publication has not yet occurred.