



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

APR 14 2005

Mr. Donald Abelson
Chief of the International Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Abelson:

In their application of February 4, 2005, INTELSAT, as Manager for the MARISAT system, has requested that the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission") modify their authorization to allow them to provide UHF communications from their MARISAT space station located at 33.9W.¹ The specific frequencies being requested are four 25-kHz channels centered on 307.750 MHz (Earth-to-space), 311.150 MHz (Earth-to-space), 254.150 MHz (space-to-Earth), and 257.550 MHz (space-to-Earth). This request is in support of NATO through Paradigm Secure Communications. On April 8, 2005 the Commission informed National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) that this conditional license will expire on May 30, 2006. INTELSAT has stated that these operations will be conducted on a non-interfering basis.

Currently, these MARISAT UHF operations are being conducted under a Special Temporary Authority (STA) which is to expire on April 10, 2005.² NTIA concurred to this STA after consultations with the Department of Defense (DoD).³ DoD has stated that they could support this INTELSAT request contingent on operating conditions that have been agreed with the INTELSAT customer for the STA. Concerning these conditions, DoD has clarified to NTIA that the condition of NATO operating user terminals East of 20W when transmitting to the MARISAT satellite is limited to the frequency 307.75 MHz.

With the understanding that the conditional license will be granted under the same terms of the existing STA, NTIA has no objection to the FCC authorizing the UHF operations sought by INTELSAT. However, NTIA retains the right to withdraw frequency authorization for this authorization, e.g., if the MARISAT capacity would be needed to meet US defense requirements.

¹ Space Station Application from Patrick J. Cerra, Vice President, INTELSAT LLC, to Federal Communications Commission dated February 4, 2005.

² See Commission File SAT-STA-20041217-00225 dated February 11, 2005.

³ Letter from Frederick R. Wentland, Associate Administrator, Office Spectrum Management to Donald Abelson, Chief of the International Bureau dated January 24, 2005.

⁴ Letter from Badri A. Younes, Director, Spectrum Management, Networks and Information Integration, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense to Frederick R. Wentland, Associate Administrator, Office Spectrum Management dated January 19, 2005.

NTIA's consideration of this authorization is limited to the existing customer. Any other proposed use of the MARISAT UHF capacity will require further coordination.

If you have any questions, please contact Edward Davison (202-482-5526; edavison@ntia.doc.gov).

Sincerely,



Frederick R. Wentland
Associate Administrator
Office of Spectrum Management