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March 27, 2009

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *DIRECTV Enterprises, LLC, FCC File Nos. SAT-AMD-20080114-00013, -00014, -00015, -00016, and SAT-AMD-20080916-00188*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This is to inform you that Romulo Pontual, Stacy Fuller, and undersigned counsel representing The DIRECTV Group, Inc. ("DIRECTV") met yesterday with John Giusti, Andrea Kelly, Stephen Duall, Kathyrn Medley, Steve Spaeth, Mark Young, Chip Fleming, and Rockie Patterson of the Commission's International Bureau. As reflected in the attached materials, which were provided to the staff at the meeting, among the topics discussed were the above referenced 17/24 GHz BSS applications.

Sincerely yours,

William M. Wiltshire
Counsel for The DIRECTV Group, Inc.

Attachment

cc: John Giusti
Andrea Kelly
Stephen Duall
Kathyrn Medley
Steve Spaeth
Mark Young
Chip Fleming
Rockie Patterson

Recent Developments and Plans for 2009

Romulo Pontual
Chief Technology Officer
26 March 2009

Review of Recent Events

- DIRECTV 11 successfully launched in March 2008, began commercial operations in July 2008
- Have continued to extend local-into-local service
  - 150 DMAs in Standard Def (95% of TVHHs)
  - 119 DMAs in High Def (89% of TVHHs)
- De-orbit of DIRECTV 1 (Feb. 09) and DIRECTV 2 (May 07)
- Received agreement from Holland for DIRECTV 7S, allowing official notification at ITU (Feb. 09)
- Launched effort to clear terrestrial operators from upper B-band
  - Terrestrial use of this band sunsets on:
    - June 8, 2010 for 18.58-18.8 GHz "upper 220"
    - Nov. 19, 2012 for 18.3-18.58 GHz "lower 280“
  - Identified and addressed worst cases
- Monitoring MVDDS developments

New Satellite Applications

- DIRECTV 12
- Ka-band satellite to be operated at 103 WL under construction
  - Launch estimated as Sept-Nov 2009
  - Spot beam replacement for DIRECTV 10 – also capable of performing spot beam mission of DIRECTV 11 at 99 WL
  - Sufficient CONUS capacity to support 80 additional national channels of HD programming as well
  - Application nearly complete and will be filed soon
- DIRECTV 97W
- Applied on March 9 for new Ka-band satellite at 97 WL
  - EchoStar failed to meet launch and operate milestone
  - Full 1000 MHz payload
  - CONUS/AK/HI beam coverage to support national HD programming

17/24 GHz BSS

- DIRECTV filed reverse band applications for 99 WL, 103 WL, 107 WL, 111 WL, and 119 WL
  - Application for 119 WL later withdrawn
  - Other applications remain pending
- DIRECTV, Intelsat, and Pegasus entered into Rationalization Agreement to consolidate their respective spectrum holdings at three orbital locations (91 WL, 99 WL, and 107 WL)
  - DIRECTV amendment application for 107 WL filed Sep. 16, 2008
  - Remains pending
- FNPRM and petitions for reconsideration pending
- Canada and other administrations have already issued licenses at multiple locations

Extension of Operations at 72.5 WL

- DIRECTV has been operating from Canadian DBS slot at 72.5 WL since September 2004
  - DIRECTV 1R currently in operation
- Agreement with Telesat Canada presumptively scheduled to terminate on December 31, 2009, subject to certain extension provisions
- DIRECTV and Telesat have extended their agreement
  - Switch from even transponders to odd
  - 16 transponders in January 2010
  - Total phase-out by September 2011
- Allows a more orderly transition of subscribers to new Ka-band services

Ka-Band and DBS Earth Station Licensing Streamlining

<u>Ka-band Earth Station Licensing</u>

- Currently, Ka-band earth station licenses must specify individual points of contact
- Proposal: make Ka-band satellites part of ALSAT designation
- Pre-cleared the idea with DoD contacts
- Petition for Rulemaking drafted
- Discussing with others in the satellite industry – hoping to finalize and file soon

<u>DBS Earth Station Licensing</u>

- Similar to Ka-band, in that specific points of contact are specified
- Proposal: create a new “DSAT” designation to allow DIRECTV feeder link earth stations to communicate with any DIRECTV DBS satellite
- Similar to “ISAT” approach adopted for Inmarsat last year

New Earth Station Plans

- Two new Ka-band feeder link antennas will be required for DIRECTV 12
  - These will be located at LABC and Long Beach (CBC)
  - Applications submitted early February 2009
- A new TTAC antenna will be used for DIRECTV 12
  - This will be located at NEUF
- A new 9m 17/24 GHz BSS reverse band antenna will be built at the NWUF
  - Will file after space station authorizations are issued
- Longer-term plan to relocate DBS feeder link antennas from LABC to CBC
  - Allows installation of additional Ka-band feeder link assets at LABC for greater redundancy
  - Land already available for expansion at CBC

Looking Forward

- Launch and operation of DIRECTV 12
- HD carry one, carry all implementation
- Development and build out of 17/24 GHz BSS assets
- ITU filings
- International coordination