

Public Ref Rm

Before The
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M St. N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
)
Application of Norris Satellite)
Communications, Inc.) File Nos. 54-DDS-P/L-90
) File Nos. 55-DSS-P-90
)
To Launch and Operate)
Communications Satellites in)
the Domestic Fixed-Satellite Service)
)

COMMENTS OF THE HOME ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION NETWORK

THE HOME ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION NETWORK hereby submits comments with regard to the above referenced applications of Norris Satellite Communications, Inc.

THE HOME ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION NETWORK is a supplier of video programming to more than one hundred and three television broadcast stations, cable television systems and low-power television stations across America. As such it has an interest in proposed facilities for the distribution of video programming.

THE HOME ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION NETWORK urges the Commission to process expeditiously the application of Norris Satellite Communications, Inc. for construction, launch and operation of a Ka-band communications satellite system. The proposed system will provide additional facilities for use by video programmers such as THE HOME ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION NETWORK affording additional alternatives for transmission facilities and increasing options for all video program suppliers.

In addition, THE HOME ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION NETWORK supports in particular the request of Norris Satellite Communications to provide its services on a non-common carrier basis, in order to insure that the proposed facilities are not used for the transmission of obscenity or pornography. As Norris has proposed in its application, it seeks authority to operate on a non-common carrier basis to have the flexibility to preclude such programming from transmission on its facilities.

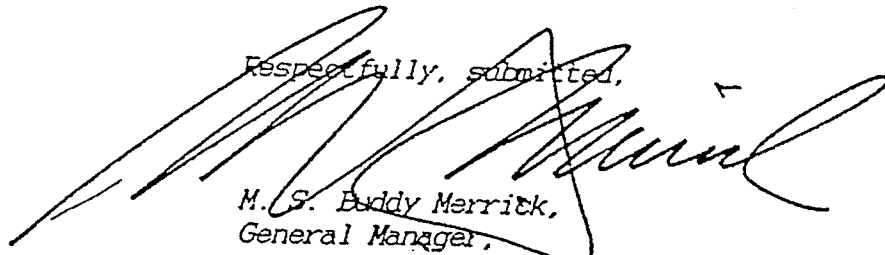
The FCC is well aware that satellite operators operating as common carriers are prohibited from discriminating against prospective customers on the basis of content of the program material to be transmitted. This inability to preclude obscene or indecent programming has led to the transmission of numerous programs of an obscene and indecent nature to thousands, if not millions, of homes in the United States. While local district attorneys, in certain instances, have sought to take action against these transmissions, their efforts have had mixed results.

A new programming facility such as that proposed by Norris Satellite Communications, Inc., would provide the opportunity for transmission of family-oriented programming to cable systems, television stations, low-power television stations and to receivers located at the homes of individual consumers. Such a proposed satellite system is clearly in the public interest.

In addition, THE HOME ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION NETWORK believes that development and use of a new frequency band (Ka-band), as proposed by Norris, will lead to the stimulation of the home receiver market. Ultimately, receivers operating in the Ka-band, built in large quantities will be low in cost and size, enabling millions of Americans, currently excluded from receipt of local television signals and/or unable to utilize C- or Ku-band receivers, to receive television programming from this system.

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing, THE HOME ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION NETWORK respectfully urges the Commission to take prompt action with regard to the applications of Norris Satellite Communications, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,



M. S. Eddy Merrick,
General Manager,

THE HOME ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION NETWORK

November 8, 1990