



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

International Bureau

February 5, 2007

Pantelis Michalopoulos
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
1330 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Re: EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation
File No. SAT-LOA-20031211-00350
Call Sign: S2607

Dear Mr. Michalopoulos:

This letter refers to EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation's (EchoStar's) recent filing to demonstrate compliance with the critical design review (CDR) milestone for its extended Ku-band authorization to operate the EchoStar-109 satellite at the 109° W.L. orbital location.

Pursuant to its authorization, EchoStar was required to complete the critical design review for the EchoStar-109 satellite by September 30, 2006.¹ EchoStar timely submitted documentation in support of its certification that CDR was complete.² We have reviewed EchoStar's filing and determined that there is a discrepancy between EchoStar's authorization for the 109° W.L. orbital location and the CDR. Specifically, the authorization, as modified, provides that EchoStar shall operate its Tracking, Telemetry and Control (TT&C) at 13.752 GHz (Earth-to-space), 13.998 GHz (Earth-to-space), 11.452 GHz (space-to-Earth) and 11.698 GHz (space-to-Earth) frequencies.³ EchoStar's CDR filing, however, shows the satellite will operate at 11.7055 GHz or 12.198 GHz frequency for its telemetry functions, and at 14.001 GHz or 14.003 GHz frequency for its command functions.

Please explain the disparity between EchoStar's authorization and the CDR. If, in fact, EchoStar intends to operate the EchoStar-109 satellite using the TT&C frequencies specified in the CDR, EchoStar must file an application to modify its authorization.

¹ Application for EchoStar Satellite L.L.C, for Authority to Construct, Launch and Operate a Geostationary Satellite Using the Extended Ku-band Frequencies in the Fixed-Satellite Service at the 109° W.L. Orbital Location, *Order and Authorization*, 20 FCC Rcd 930, 940 (Sat. Div., Int'l Bur. 2004).

² Letter to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, from Pantelis Michalopoulos, Counsel for EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation (October 2, 2006).

³ EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation, File Nos. SAT-MOD-20050930-00195, SAT-AMD-20051118-00249 (grant stamped with conditions on December 21, 2005 by the Robert Nelson, Chief, Engineering Branch, Satellite Division).

Please submit your response to this letter to the Commission's Secretary by February 15, 2007, with a courtesy copy to Jabin Vahora of my staff: Jabin.Vahora@fcc.gov.

Robert G. Nelson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Nelson", followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

Chief
Satellite Division