



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

DA 12-410

March 15, 2012

Stephen D. Baruch
Counsel to Skybox Imaging, Inc.
Lerman Senter PLLC
2000 K Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006

Re: Skybox Imaging, Inc., IBFS File No. SAT-LOA-20111222-00246 (Call Sign: S2851)

Dear Mr. Baruch:

This letter dismisses, as unacceptable for filing, the above-referenced application for launch and operating authority for two non-geostationary-orbit (NGSO) Earth Exploration Satellite Service (EESS) space stations filed by Skybox Imaging, Inc. (Skybox).¹

Section 25.112(a) of the Commission's rules states that an application will be returned as unacceptable for filing if it is not substantially complete and consistent with the Commission's rules.² Skybox's NGSO EESS application fails to provide information required by three provisions of the Commission's rules: (1) the predicted gain contours required by Section 25.114(d)(3); (2) a link performance analysis required by Section 25.114(d)(4) for the second of Skybox's two NGSO EESS satellites, SkySat-2; and (3) downlink power flux density (PFD) levels for SkySat-2, required by Section 25.114(c)(8).³ *See* 47 C.F.R. §§ 25.114(c)(8), (d)(3), & (d)(4). Accordingly, we dismiss Skybox's application, without prejudice to re-filing.

We note that Skybox states that SkySat-2 will operate with an altitude in the range of 450 to 637 km, and that the exact orbit of SkySat-2 will be determined at a future date.⁴ In any re-filed application, Skybox should submit information sufficient to address the full range of

¹ If Skybox re-files an application identical to the one dismissed, with the exception of supplying the corrected information, it need not pay an application fee. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.1111(d).

² 47 C.F.R. § 25.112(a).

³ With respect to the link budget and PFD for SkySat-2, we would consider appropriate a link budget calculated based on the highest anticipated orbital altitude and a downlink PFD levels calculated based on the lowest anticipated orbital altitude.

⁴ *See* Application, Exhibit 43 at 2.

possible altitudes for Skybox 2. Manned spacecraft, including the International Space Station, may operate at the lower end of the range of altitudes specified for SkySat-2. Accordingly, any re-filed request for approval for low-earth orbit operations must include the full range of measures (such as maintaining a minimum distance separation) and coordination that will be undertaken to address risks to inhabitable orbiting objects.⁵

Sincerely,



Robert G. Nelson
Chief, Satellite Division
International Bureau

⁵ See *Mitigation of Orbital Debris*, Second Report and Order, 19 FCC Rcd 11567, para. 56 (2004).