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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

GTE Spacenet Corporation
1700 Old Meadow Road
McLean, VA 22102
703 848-1000

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Domestic Facilities Division
Satellite Radio Branch

February 16, 1990

Donna R. Searcy
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

Attention: Cecily C. Holiday
Chief, Satellite Radio Branch

Re: Supplemental Information Regarding Launch Schedule For GSTAR IV
File No: ~~2760-DSS-MP/MI-89~~

Dear Ms. Searcy:

18-DSS - MUA - 90

On February 6, 1990 GTE Spacenet Corporation sent the Commission a letter informing it that the launch date for the GSTAR IV satellite had been delayed from the Commission-specified date of February 1990, Order and Authorization FCC 88-378, to some, as yet, unspecified date within the June - December 1990 timeframe. Pursuant to GTE Spacenet's launch services agreement, the exact date will be determined in mid-March 1990. GTE Spacenet's letter failed to identify the specific circumstances surrounding this launch delay or to address the status of the GSTAR IV construction process, an issue relevant to the February 6, 1990 request for extension.

The construction of the GSTAR IV satellite was initially completed (all but the integration and testing) prior to January 1987. In February, 1987 GTE Spacenet sought Commission authority to modify the GSTAR IV spacecraft by incorporating an RDSS transmit/receive payload aboard the spacecraft for the Geostar Corporation. The Commission granted GTE Spacenet a 319(d) waiver to include the RDSS payload; and GTE Spacenet thus began the process of dismantling GSTAR IV in anticipation of the integration of the RDSS transmit/receive package. Geostar subsequently abandoned its plans and GTE Spacenet commenced restoring the satellite to the design originally authorized. This restoration process delayed the construction completion date beyond that contemplated for incorporating the RDSS transmit/receive payload.

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It has just been brought to my attention that the re-integration and testing of GSTAR IV in August 1989 revealed some hardware deficiencies aboard the spacecraft. These deficiencies required replacement of certain pieces of flight hardware which involve long-lead procurement times. While all but two of these required pieces of hardware have been mounted on the spacecraft, and spacecraft-level testing is in process, final testing will not be completed until mid-April. At that time, the satellite will be ready to be shipped to the launch site in Kourou, French Guiana for launch aboard an Ariane launch vehicle.

The purpose of this letter is to assure the Commission that GTE Spacenet is proceeding in good faith with all due diligence to place its GSTAR IV satellite in orbit and begin operation as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding this, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Terri B. Natoli
Industry Relations Manager

TBN/kmc

cc: F. Jarmulnek