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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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DOMESTIC FACILITIES DIVISION
SATELLITE RADIO BRANCH

Ms. Cecily C. Holiday
Federal Communications Commission
Common Carrier Bureau
2025 M Street, N.W. - Room 6324
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: GE American Communications, Inc.
Satcom H-1 Domestic Fixed Satellite

Dear Ms. Holiday:

On October 31, 1990, GE American Communications, Inc. ("GE Americom") submitted an application to modify its authorization for the H-1 hybrid satellite. (File Nos. 2 DSS-MP/ML-91 & 3-DSS-EXT-91.) We are writing to request that the Commission defer processing of that application while GE Americom assesses further H-1 design modifications to make the satellite more responsive to customer requirements. This deferral will save Commission resources because some of the technical modifications that appear necessary are inconsistent with those proposed in the pending application.

The modifications under consideration are necessitated by the accelerating pace of technological developments such as digital video compression and high definition television, and by consultations GE Americom has conducted with existing and potential customers. Based on those developments and discussions, GE Americom has determined that certain technical and operational requirements for the H-1 satellite must be reevaluated. GE Americom is working closely with its satellite vendor, GE Astro Space, to determine how customer requirements can best be met and how GE Americom can capitalize on recent technical advances.

GE Americom will advise the Commission within six to nine months as to any further technical modifications for H-1 that may require Commission approval. At that time we will provide the Commission with copies of any relevant amendments to the construction contract that may be negotiated. We also

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anticipate that certain progress payments under the GE Astro contract will be renegotiated shortly in accordance with the revised construction process.

GE Americom is not presently requesting an extension of time to complete construction and launch the satellite beyond the respective July and September 1994 dates set forth in the pending October 1990 application. Based on ongoing work with GE Astro under the construction contract, it appears that design simplifications to H-1 may permit expeditious construction of the satellite consistent with the proposed dates.

If any questions arise in connection with this matter, please contact the undersigned.

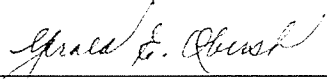
Yours very truly,

HOGAN & HARTSON

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By


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