Dermit - But - Disclose



File # SAT-MOD-ZOO50926-00182 Call Sign _ \$265 Grant Date _ Apr. 132, 2006

By Hand Delivery

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commission Office of Secretary

Re: Application for Modification of Authority for Use of the 2 GHz Bands to Provide Mobile Satellite Service (File Nos. SAT-MOD-20050926-00182 & SAT-AMD-20050927-00186)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

ICO Satellite Services G.P. ("ICO") requests that the above-referenced application proceeding be designated as "permit-but-disclose" under the Commission's rules governing ex parte communications.1

ICO filed the above-referenced modification application and minor amendment on September 26 and 27, 2005, respectively. The modification application included a waiver request to permit temporary use of C-band frequencies for in-transit and emergency telemetry, tracking, and command ("TT&C") operations. The modification application and minor amendment were placed on public notice on October 21 and December 7, 2005, respectively.2 Long after the closing of the formal pleading cycle, Intelsat North America LLC ("Intelsat") untimely filed a letter on March 27, 2006, requesting denial of ICO's waiver request.3

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¹ See 47 C.F.R. § 1.1200 et seq.

² See FCC Public Notice, Policy Branch Information: Satellite Space Applications Accepted For Filing, Rep. No. SAT-00325 (Oct. 21, 2005); FCC Public Notice, Policy Branch Information: Satellite Space Applications Accepted For Filing, Rep. No. SAT-00333 (Dec. 7, 2005).

³ See Letter from Jennifer D. Hindin, Counsel to Intelsat, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, (Mar. 7, 2005).

For ex parte purposes, this modification application proceeding is a "restricted" proceeding under Section 1.1208.⁴ The Commission, however, has the authority to modify the ex parte status of a proceeding "[w]here the public interest so requires." Grant of this request will serve the public interest by facilitating communications with Commission staff to address complex technical, legal, and policy issues raised in these proceedings. The Commission routinely has redesignated the ex parte status of a proceeding as "permit-but-disclose" where complex technical, legal, and policy issues are raised.⁶ In fact, the Commission previously granted a similar request by ICO to redesignate as "permit-but-disclose" a related application to modify its 2 GHz mobile satellite service to substitute a geostationary satellite orbit system for a nongeostationary satellite orbit system.⁷

Accordingly, ICO urges the Commission to grant this request expeditiously.

Very truly yours

Suzanne Hutchings Malloy

cc: Andrea Kelly

⁴ See 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1206(a)(3), 1.1208.

⁵ See id. § 1.1200(a).

⁶ See, e.g., FCC Public Notice, Int'l Bureau, Satellite Policy Branch Information: Ex Parte Status of Pending Loral Modification Applications, 16 FCC Rcd 14774 (IB 2001); Application of SkyBridge L.L.C., 13 FCC Rcd 11076 (IB 1998).

⁷ See ICO Satellite Services G.P., 20 FCC Rcd 8246 (IB 2005).

PERMIT-BUT-DISCLOSE

File Nos. SAT-MOD-20050926-00182 and SAT-AMD-20050927-00186 Call Sign: S2651

These applications pertain to a licensing proceeding and are generally restricted under the Commission's ex parte rules. See 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1202(d) and 1.1208. On April 2, 2006, ICO Satellite Services G.P. filed a request to designate this proceeding as "permit-butdisclose" under the Commission's ex parte rules. See Letter to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, from Suzanne Hutchings Malloy, Counsel to ICO Satellite Services G.P. (April 2, 2006). No oppositions to the change in status have been filed. See Letter to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, from Suzanne Hutchings Mallov, Counsel to ICO Satellite Services G.P. (April 11, 2006). The issues raised in these applications address complex technical, legal, and policy issues. In order to develop a full and complete record in this proceeding, the Satellite Division concludes that the public interest will be served by designating IBFS File Nos. SAT-MOD-20050926-00182 and SAT-MOD-20050927-00186 (Call Sign S2651) as "permit-but-disclose." Accordingly, on April 12, 2006, the Satellite Division, Policy Branch, granted the request and designated the applications as "permit-but-disclose." 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.200(a), 1.1206 and 1.1208, Note 2. This action is without prejudice to any determination regarding the processing of applications.

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