



International Bureau

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

May 11, 2006

Joseph A. Godles
Goldberg Godles Wiener & Wright
1229 19th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-2413

Re: PanAmSat Licensee Corp., Application for License Modification or, in the Alternative, Request for Special Temporary Authority
IBFS File Nos.SAT-MOD-20051020-00204; SAT-STA-20051020-00205

Dear Mr. Godles:

On October 20, 2005, PanAmSat Licensee Corp. (PanAmSat) filed applications to modify the license of the SBS-6 spacecraft by extending the license term by five years or, in the alternative, to request special temporary authority (STA) to operate the SBS-6 spacecraft for a period of 180 days after the license of the SBS-6 spacecraft expires. The current license term for the SBS-6 spacecraft expired on November 1, 2005. Both applications are currently pending before the Satellite Division.

In order to determine whether these extension requests serve the public interest, we require additional information about the operations and post-mission disposal plans of the SBS-6 spacecraft. Specifically, we request PanAmSat to supply within 30 days of the date of this letter the following information:

- (1) the intended disposal altitude that will be used at end of life for the SBS-6 spacecraft;
- (2) the amount of fuel, in kilograms, that is intended to be reserved to accomplish the intended disposal altitude, as well as the methodology used to derive that quantity, including the methods used to determine and address fuel gauging uncertainty;
- (3) the amount of fuel, in kilograms, that is currently estimated to be available to the SBS-6 spacecraft;
- (4) whether the SBS-6 spacecraft has experienced any in-orbit anomalies in connection with its electrical or propulsion systems that could cause loss of control of the spacecraft and prevent post-mission disposal;

(5) whether stored energy will be removed at the spacecraft's end of life, by depleting residual fuel and leaving all fuel line valves open, venting any pressurized system, leaving all batteries in a permanent discharge state, and removing any remaining source of stored energy, or through other equivalent procedures.

In addition, we seek confirmation whether the SBS-6 spacecraft will be maintained within ± 0.05 degrees of its assigned orbital longitude in the east-west direction during the remainder of its operational life, as required by Section 25.210(j) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 25.210(j).

In preparing your response to this letter, you may wish to consult the Public Notice of October 13, 2005, entitled "Disclosure of Orbital Debris Mitigation Plans, Including Amendment of Pending Applications."¹

Please do not hesitate to contact Karl Kensinger (418-0773) or Stephen Duall (418-1103) of my staff if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Nelson
Chief,
Satellite Division

¹ Public Notice, DA 05-2698, SPB Report No. SPB-112 (October 13, 2005).