



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

International Bureau

January 13, 2011

Pantelis Michalopoulos
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Re: EchoStar Corporation
IBFS File No. SAT-LOA-20030609-00113
Call Sign S2454
IBFS File No. SAT-MOD-20101124-00244
Call Signs S2439 and S2454

Dear Mr. Michalopoulos:

This letter requests additional information concerning the above-referenced application filed in 2010 by EchoStar Corporation (EchoStar).

On November 29, 2006, the International Bureau authorized EchoStar Satellite L.L.C. (EchoStar) to construct a new Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) service satellite to be located at the 86.5° W.L. orbital location, which EchoStar named "EchoStar-86.5W" (Call Sign S2454). The license requires EchoStar to enter into a binding non-contingent contract to construct the satellite by November 29, 2007, to complete critical design review (CDR) by November 29, 2008, to complete construction of the first satellite in its system by November 29, 2010, and to operate the satellite by November 29, 2012.¹ Failure to comply with these express terms of the license may result in its cancellation.²

On November 29, 2007, you submitted a copy of the satellite construction contract EchoStar executed with Space Systems/Loral. In a letter accompanying that submission, you noted that the scheduled delivery date of the satellite was November 29, 2010. On December 1, 2008, you submitted CDR documentation and a certification of completion of CDR. On December 29, 2008, EchoStar filed a modification application to revise the antenna coverage pattern of this satellite and to revise the orbital debris mitigation plan.

On November 24, 2010, EchoStar filed the above-captioned modification application. In the application, EchoStar proposes to move the EchoStar 8 satellite (Call Sign S2439), which currently operates at the 77° W.L. orbital location pursuant to a Mexican license,

¹ EchoStar Satellite L.L.C., Application to Construct, Launch, and Operate a Direct Broadcast Satellite at the 86.5° W.L. Orbital Location, *Order and Authorization*, 21 FCC Rcd 14045 (2006) (*EchoStar 86.5 WL Order*).

² See 47 C.F.R. § 25.148(b); Compass Systems, Inc. Application for Review of EchoStar Satellite Corporation Assignment of Direct Broadcast Satellite Orbital Position and Channels, *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, 19 FCC Rcd. 10078, 10081 n. 24 (2004).

into the 86.5° W.L. orbital location after launch of a Mexican satellite later this year. In the application, EchoStar also asks the Commission to rule that operating EchoStar 8 at 86.5 W.L. satisfies EchoStar's milestones.

In order to facilitate consideration of your request and disposition of the records associated with Call Sign S2454, we seek additional information concerning construction of the EchoStar-86.5W satellite.

Please state the status of construction of the EchoStar-86.5W satellite. Are EchoStar and Space Systems/Loral continuing to construct the new satellite?

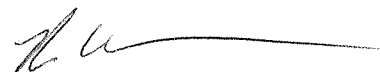
If construction is not continuing, on what date did construction halt? Has EchoStar negotiated with Space Systems/Loral, or any other manufacturer, to resume, at a later date, construction of a satellite designed to operate at the 86.5° W.L. orbital location, or to otherwise dispose of any purchased or fabricated EchoStar-86.5W hardware?

If construction is continuing, what payments have been made pursuant to the satellite construction contract submitted on November 29, 2007? Please identify -- with specific reference to the payment plan in Attachment A to the contract -- which contract milestone event(s) were completed and what payments were made.

If the construction contract was amended after a confidential copy of it was submitted to the Commission on November 29, 2007, please submit a complete copy of the current version of the contract, and a listing of the items that changed between the version previously submitted and the current version.

EchoStar's response must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission no later than 30 calendar days from the date of this letter, with a courtesy copy to Mark Young of my staff. Failure to respond by the specified date may result in dismissal of this application.³ Please contact Mr. Young at (202) 418-0762 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Nelson
Chief, Satellite Division

³ 45 C.F.R. §§ 25.111(a) and 25.112(c).