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November 15, 1996

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Satellite Policy Branch
International Bureau

BY HAND DELIVERY

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

Attention: Fern J. Jarmulnek
Chief, Satellite Policy Branch
Satellite and Radiocommunication Division
International Bureau

**Re: Amendment of GE American Communications, Inc. to
Request for Special Temporary Authority to Continue
Operations on Satcom K-1, File No. 132-SAT-STA-96**

EXPEDITED ACTION REQUESTED

Dear Ms. Jarmulnek:

Enclosed on behalf of GE American Communications, Inc. ("GE Americom") are an original and four copies of an amendment to GE Americom's pending June 26 request for further special temporary authority to continue operations on Satcom K-1, File No. 132-SAT-STA-96. The amendment requests authority for Satcom K-1 to go into inclined orbit as early as November 19, 1996.

As the amendment demonstrates in more detail, allowing GE Americom to operate Satcom K-1 in inclined orbit will serve the public interest by ensuring continuous service to customers. GE Americom has received authority to move Satcom K-2 to the 85° W.L. location, collocating it with Satcom K-1. See File No. 128-SAT-STA-96 (letter from T. Tycz to K. Hastings dated Sept. 18, 1996).

Ms. Fern J. Jarmulnek
November 15, 1996
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That move has occurred, and Satcom K-1's traffic is scheduled to be transferred to Satcom K-2 on November 18. Satcom K-1 will subsequently serve as a back-up to Satcom K-2, pending the launch of GE-2, which is planned for January of 1997.

In order to conserve Satcom K-1's fuel so that it will be available to provide back-up services, GE Americom seeks authority to operate Satcom K-1 in inclined orbit. Grant of such authority will not result in any increased interference to adjacent satellites.

Because there is no filing fee specified in the Commission's rules for this amendment, we are filing the amendment in Washington. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions regarding this request.

Respectfully submitted,



Karis A. Hastings
Counsel for GE American
Communications, Inc.

Enclosures

cc: Columbia, Maryland Field Office
Kathleen Campbell
Michael McCoin

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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Satellite Policy Branch
International Bureau

In the Matter of Application by)
)
GE AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)
)
For Special Temporary Authority for)
Satcom K-1)

File No. 132-SAT-STA-96

AMENDMENT OF GE AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

GE American Communications, Inc. ("GE Americom") hereby amends its above-captioned application for special temporary authority to continue operating Satcom K-1, which is located at 85° W.L. Specifically, GE Americom requests authority to operate Satcom K-1 in inclined orbit as early as November 19, 1996. Grant of this application will serve the public interest by promoting efficient use of orbital resources and by providing backup capacity for customers at the 85° W.L. location.

GE Americom seeks authority to operate Satcom K-1 in inclined orbit to conserve its remaining fuel capacity, allowing the satellite to be available for back-up service until GE-2 is launched and operational. GE Americom has received authority to move Satcom K-2 to the 85° W.L. location, collocating it with Satcom K-1. See File No. 128-SAT-STA-96 (letter from T. Tycz to K. Hastings dated

Sept. 18, 1996). That move has occurred, and Satcom K-1's traffic is scheduled to be transferred to Satcom K-2 on November 18. Satcom K-1 will subsequently serve as a back-up to Satcom K-2, pending the launch of GE-2, which is planned for January of 1997.

The inclination of Satcom K-1's orbit will be minimal. GE Americom estimates that by the end of the first quarter of 1997, by which point GE-2 is expected to be in service, the orbit will be inclined by less than half a degree. This small change in the orbit will not result in any increased interference to adjacent satellites. In any event, GE Americom's subsidiary GE American Communications Satellites, Inc. operates the only satellite adjacent to this slot, Satcom SN-3, located at 87° W.L. There is no satellite currently operating at 83° W.L.

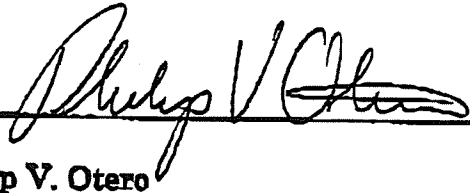
In inclined orbit Satcom K-1 will continue to be capable of providing back-up services to customers at the 85° W.L. position. Grant of the requested special temporary authority will enable GE Americom to provide a seamless transition of customer traffic to GE-2 when the latter begins providing service at that location.

Accordingly, GE Americom respectfully requests that the Commission grant special temporary authority for the licensee to operate Satcom K-1 in inclined orbit during the period of the underlying STA request, through January 29, 1997.

GE American Communications, Inc. hereby certifies that no party to this application is subject to a denial of federal benefits pursuant to § 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, 21 U.S.C. § 853a.

Respectfully submitted,

GE AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

By:  _____

**Philip V. Otero
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Four Research Way
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Of Counsel

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