

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

In Reply Refer to:

8/13/96

Ms. Karis A. Hastings
Hogan & Hartson
Columbia Square
555 Thirteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-1109

Reference: GE American Communications, Inc. -- Request for Special Temporary
Authority to Extend Milestone Schedule (File No. 145-SAT-STA-96)

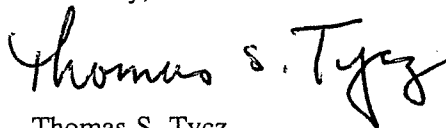
Dear Ms. Hastings:

GE American Communications, Inc. (GE Americom) is authorized to construct, launch and operate the GE-1 satellite to be located at 103° W.L. (*See* GE American Communications, Inc., 7 FCC Rcd 5159 (1992), *as modified*, GTE Spacenet Corporation and GE American Communications, Inc., 9 FCC Rcd 1271 (1994).) GSTAR I is operating at 103° W.L. and the construction and launch dates authorized for GE-1, which will replace GSTAR-1, conformed to the estimated end-of-life that satellite. Due to unforeseen delays experienced by the manufacturer, the GE-1 satellite was unable to meet the established construction schedule. Customer service continues to be provided by the GSTAR 1 satellite, operating pursuant to special temporary authority. Based on the manufacturing delays, GE Americom requested a modification of the construction and launch deadlines for its GE-1 satellite. *See* File No. 135-SAT-ML-96, Public Notice, Report No. SPB-53 (July 17, 1996).

In its modification application, GE Americom requested that the construction completion date be extended through November 1996 with launch no later than December 1996. However, the GE-1 satellite is now scheduled for launch in late-August. Therefore, GE Americom is seeking this STA to extend the milestone schedule prior to action on its modification application.

Based on these circumstances, your letter request of July 23, 1996, on behalf of GE American Communications, Inc., for special temporary authority to extend the construction and launch dates for the GE-1 satellite is granted.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Tycz
Chief, Satellite and Radiocommunication Division
International Bureau