



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

February 26, 1997

INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

EchoStar Satellite Corporation
Direcstsat Corporation
Pantelis Michalopoulos
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-1795

Reference: File Nos. 155-SAT-STA-96, 156-SAT-STA-96

Dear Mr. Michalopoulos:

On September 12, 1996, EchoStar Satellite Corporation ("EchoStar") and Direcstsat Corporation ("Direcstsat") applied for Special Temporary Authority ("STA") to operate their Direct Broadcast Satellite ("DBS") systems USABSS-3 and USABSS-4 at 119.05° W.L. and 118.95° W.L., respectively. Currently, EchoStar and Direcstsat are authorized to operate USABSS-3 and USABSS-4 at 119.2° W.L. and 118.8° W.L., respectively. However, the application did not provide technical showings addressing the possibility of interference into other systems.

The Region 2 Broadcasting-Satellite Service Plans provide for a satellite spacing of 0.4° to avoid interference between odd and even, overlapping, cross-polarized channels. Another US DBS permittee, Tempo Satellite, Inc. ("Tempo"), has been assigned channels at the nominal orbital location of 119° W.L., specifically at 118.8° W.L. Tempo recently received launch and operating authority (*See TEMPO Satellite Inc.*, DA97-355, released February 24, 1997), and Tempo intends to launch its satellite to this orbital location in the near future. We are concerned that the potential for interference to or from Tempo's assigned channels is increased by moving USABSS-3 closer to 118.8° W.L. Without a technical analysis from EchoStar and Direcstsat, we are unable to determine the extent of possible interference.

Accordingly, if EchoStar and Direcstsat wish the Commission staff to process their request for STA, they must either (1) submit to the Commission a technical showing demonstrating that harmful interference will not be caused to other potentially affected satellite systems and US permittees, or (2) obtain the agreement of all potentially affected satellite system operators or permittees and notify the Commission of such agreements. If the Commission does not receive this additional information within 30 days from the date of this letter, your request for STA will be dismissed without prejudice.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Tycz
Chief
Satellite and Radiocommunication Division
International Bureau

cc: Tempo Satellite, Inc.