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January 15, 2010

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**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Hon. Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Iridium Satellite LLC  
Request for Special Temporary Authorization to Test and Commence  
Mobile Satellite Service in the 1616-1617.775 MHz Band

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Iridium Satellite LLC (“Iridium”), by its attorneys and pursuant to 25 C.F.R. § 25.120, hereby requests Special Temporary Authorization (“STA”), for 20 days, to test and then commence Mobile Satellite Service (“MSS”) in the 1616-1617.775 MHz band. Grant of the requested STA will serve the public interest in accommodating the dramatic increase in demand for telephone service in support of relief efforts following the recent earthquake in Haiti. This STA request is similar to the requests the Commission granted following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

As the FCC is aware, the recent earthquake caused extraordinary devastation in the nation of Haiti, including damage to communications infrastructure in the region. Public safety officials, relief organizations, businesses and the public urgently need reliable telephone service as they respond to the crisis. Iridium’s mobile satellite service is ideally suited to meet this need and indeed, is already providing vital service to these individuals and organizations.

However, Iridium’s current MSS allocation in the 1617.775-1626.5 MHz band is expected to prove insufficient to handle growing call volumes this weekend. In the days since the earthquake, traffic from the region over Iridium’s system has increased 18,000 percent and all available Iridium equipment in the Southeast United States is being made available for use in Haiti. The sudden spike in the distribution of Iridium’s satellite phones to Haiti is certain to produce further demand as the additional phones are brought into use. Indeed, Iridium expects its current spectrum allocation will reach maximum congestion within the next 24 hours, thus causing the satellites to be overloaded and calls to be dropped.



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To meet growing demand and avoid dropped calls, Iridium seeks to utilize the 1616-1617.775 MHz band for 20 days beginning immediately so that Boeing can begin testing. Upon successful conclusion of the tests this weekend, Iridium plans to commence service. Because it will take Boeing some time to obtain the necessary technical personnel to conduct the tests during this upcoming holiday weekend, Iridium respectfully requests grant of this STA request by the end of the business day today.

Please direct any questions regarding this matter to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jennifer D. Hindin  
Jennifer D. Hindin  
Counsel to Iridium Satellite LLC