

Description of STA Request

GeoEye License Corp. f/k/a ORBIMAGE License Corp. (“GeoEye”) hereby requests an extension of its existing STA to alter OrbView-3’s orbital parameters and to perform TT&C functions with OrbView-3 during the de-orbiting process. *See* SAT-STA-20101202-00250 (“Initial De-Orbit STA”).

GeoEye is the licensee of OrbView-3, a non-geostationary remote sensing satellite in the Earth-Exploration Satellite Service (“EESS”). As explained in GeoEye’s application for the Initial De-Orbit STA, OrbView-3 has reached the end of its useful life. Pursuant to the Initial De-Orbit STA, GeoEye has been conducting a controlled de-orbit of OrbView-3 since early January. GeoEye already has completed Phase I of the de-orbit process, and is preparing to proceed with Phase II of that process.

Although GeoEye initially expected to complete the de-orbit of OrbView-3 by the end of January 2011, that process has taken longer than anticipated due to OrbView-3 entering “safehold” mode after completing Phase I of the de-orbit process. GeoEye initially completely recovered OrbView-3 from safehold mode but recently the satellite re-entered safehold mode. GeoEye expects to recover OrbView-3 from safehold mode in the near future at which time it will commence Phase II of the de-orbit. Phase II will take approximately 10 days, after which time OrbView-3 will re-enter the Earth’s atmosphere. Assuming recovery of OrbView-3 from safehold mode in the near future, GeoEye plans to complete the Phase II de-orbit and OrbView-3 re-entry before the end of February.

Accordingly, GeoEye respectfully requests that the Commission extend the Initial De-Orbit STA for an additional 30 days. Grant of such extension would allow the de-orbit of OrbView-3 to continue in a manner consistent with the de-orbit plan already reviewed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”) and approved by the Commission in granting the Initial De-Orbit STA, and thus would serve the public interest, convenience and necessity.