

### **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; SAT-STA-20110201-00020 (“De-Orbit STAs”).

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 requests for the De-Orbit STAs, OrbView-3 has reached the end of its useful life. Pursuant to the De-Orbit STAs, GeoEye has been conducting a controlled de-orbit of OrbView-3 since January 2011. 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, in part due to the need to avoid any conflicts with NASA Space Shuttle operations. GeoEye now expects to commence Phase II of the de-orbit, which will take approximately 7 days to complete, on March 4, 2011, prior to the scheduled undocking of the Space Shuttle from the International Space Station. GeoEye’s Phase II maneuvers are contingent on the Space Shuttle’s itinerary and, although GeoEye will commence Phase II while the Space Shuttle is docked, GeoEye will not perform any maneuvers while the Space Shuttle is in transit. GeoEye is in contact with International Space Station representatives at Johnson Space Center and will de-conflict Phase II activities with those of the Space Shuttle as needed.

Accordingly, GeoEye respectfully requests that the Commission extend its existing 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 De-Orbit STAs, and thus would serve the public interest, convenience and necessity.