

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
ECHOSTAR SATELLITE OPERATING CORPORATION)	Call Sign S2232
)	File No. SAT-STA-20110207-00026
Application to Renew Its Special Temporary Authority to Operate EchoStar 6 at 76.95° W.L.)	File No. SAT-STA-20110608-00104
)	File No. SAT-STA-2011_____

APPLICATION TO RENEW SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY

By this Application, EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation (“ESOC”) requests renewal of its Special Temporary Authority (“STA”), under Section 25.120(b)(3) of the Commission’s rules,¹ for an additional 60 days to operate the EchoStar 6 satellite from the 76.95° W.L. orbital location. The current STA expires on August 9, 2011.²

EchoStar 6 arrived at the 76.95° W.L. orbital location on February 13, 2011, and began providing service on February 14, 2011. The relocation was prompted by a single event upset (“SEU”) that temporarily affected the EchoStar 8 satellite.³ On March 14, 2011, ESOC’s parent company, EchoStar Corporation (“EchoStar”), filed an application to transfer the satellite to QuetzSat, S. de R.L. de C.V. (“QuetzSat”), which will operate the satellite under Mexican

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 25.120(b)(3).

² See Stamp Grant, File No. SAT-STA-20110608-00104 (granted June 14, 2011). The technical parameters of the satellite and its operations were provided in the Technical Annex and Schedule S submitted with the original STA application. See File No. SAT-STA-20110207-00026 (granted Feb. 11, 2011).

³ See Letter from Petra A. Vorwig, Counsel for EchoStar Corporation, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, filed in File No. SAT-T/C-20090217-00026 (Feb. 1, 2011).

authority from the 76.95° W.L. orbital location.⁴ EchoStar also filed an application to modify its blanket earth station authorization to provide service from the Mexican-licensed EchoStar 6 satellite.⁵ ESOC's current STA renewal request is necessary to allow it to continue operating EchoStar 6 while these applications remain pending.

The Mexican concessionaire for the 77° W.L. orbital location informed COFETEL of EchoStar 6's relocation, and COFETEL "expressed no objection to placement of the Echo 6 satellite" in the 77° W.L. cluster.⁶

I. BACKGROUND

The nominal 77° W.L. orbital location is allotted to Mexico under the Region 2 Broadcasting-Satellite Service plan set forth in Appendices 30 and 30A to the International Radio Regulations. In addition to the EchoStar 6 satellite, ESOC currently operates three Direct Broadcast Satellite ("DBS") service satellites at the nominal 77° W.L. orbital location under Mexican authority issued to its partner, QuetzSat: EchoStar 1, EchoStar 4, and EchoStar 8. The satellites are used by EchoStar's customers, DISH Network L.L.C. ("DISH") and DISH Mexico,

⁴ See File No. SAT-T/C-20110314-00054 (filed Mar. 14, 2011). On April 21, 2011, the Commission consented to the *pro forma* assignment of EchoStar's authorization to launch and operate EchoStar 6 to ESOC. See File No. SAT-ASG-20110224-00033 (granted Apr. 21, 2011). The *pro forma* assignment was consummated on May 23, 2011. See Letter from Pantelis Michalopoulos and L. Lisa Sandoval, Counsel for EchoStar Corporation and EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, *filed in* File No. SAT-ASG-20110224-00033 (May 23, 2011).

⁵ See File No. SES-MFS-20110314-00288 (filed Mar. 14, 2011) ("Blanket Earth Station Application").

⁶ See Letter from Ricardo Ríos Ferrer, Legal Representative, QuetzSat, S. de R.L. de C.V., to EchoStar Satellite Service LLC (Feb. 4, 2011), *filed in* File No. SAT-STA-20110207-00026, Attachment 2.

to provide DBS service in the United States and Mexico, respectively. The U.S. service includes local-into-local programming in a number of markets in the southern United States.

EchoStar 6, operating with EchoStar 1 and EchoStar 8 at 77° W.L., will provide sufficient capacity to avoid service disruptions from that slot in the event any of the satellites experience a problem. EchoStar 1, a satellite launched in December 1995, has limited capability (only up to 16 transponders), and EchoStar 4, having reached the end of its design life, has been retired from commercial service and deorbited.⁷ EchoStar 8 is fully functional.

II. GRANT OF THIS APPLICATION IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Renewal of ESOC's STA to operate EchoStar 6 at 76.95° W.L. is in the public interest because it will continue to ensure the provision of DBS service to the United States, including the provision of local-into-local service in the southern United States. It will also ensure continuity of receipt of both national and local programming for the subscribers of EchoStar's customer, DISH, by providing spare capacity at 77° W.L. in the event EchoStar 1 or EchoStar 8 suffers a problem.

The continued operation of EchoStar 6 at 76.95° W.L. will not cause harmful interference to any other U.S.-licensed satellite operator. There is no DBS orbital location in the vicinity of 77° W.L. that is assigned to the United States (the closest U.S. orbital location is 61.5° W.L., an orbital location held only by ESOC). There will likewise be no harmful interference from the operation of an additional satellite at 76.95° W.L. into Canada's DBS allotments at 72.5° W.L. and 82° W.L. There is an existing coordination agreement between Mexico and Canada

⁷ The Commission recently granted STA to deorbit EchoStar 4 from 76.85° W.L. See Stamp Grant, File No. SAT-STA-20110627-00122 (granted July 22, 2011).

regarding the Mexican 77° W.L. orbital location and the Canadian orbital locations 82° W.L. and 72.5° W.L. ESOC will operate EchoStar 6 within the specifications of this coordination agreement as well as the informal operator-to-operator arrangement it has established with DIRECTV to ensure compatibility among their satellites operating at 77° W.L. and 72.5° W.L., respectively. ESOC will also abide by the conditions imposed on the original grant.⁸

Finally, the continued operation of the EchoStar 6 satellite at 76.95° W.L. will not create any risk of in-orbit collision. EchoStar 6 will be maintained within +/- 0.05° east/west station-keeping, which will ensure that its station-keeping volume will not overlap with ESOC's own satellites at 77° W.L.

III. WAIVER PURSUANT TO SECTION 304 OF THE ACT

In accordance with Section 304 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 304, ESOC hereby waives any claim to the use of any particular frequency or of the electromagnetic spectrum as against the regulatory power of the United States because of the previous use of the same, whether by license or otherwise.

IV. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, ESOC respectfully requests the grant of its application to renew its special temporary authority to operate EchoStar 6 at the 76.95° W.L. orbital location for an additional 60 days.

⁸ See File No. SAT-STA-20110207-00026 (granted Feb. 11, 2011).

Respectfully submitted,

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