

Narrative Description

DG Consents Sub, Inc. (“DigitalGlobe”) hereby requests a 60-day extension of the pre-grant special temporary authority (“STA”) in File No. SAT-STA-20111115-00219 (“November STA”) to operate its QuickBird satellite in an orbit that is at variance with the authorized orbit, pending Commission action on DigitalGlobe’s pending modification of license application in File No. SAT-MOD-20101122-00243 (“Modification Application”), as amended in File No. SAT-AMD-20110829-00168 (“August 2011 Amendment”).

DigitalGlobe was first granted temporary authority to operate the QuickBird satellite at a peak orbit altitude of 482 kilometers last April, after the QuickBird satellite depleted its maneuvering fuel during a previously-authorized orbit raise, and that authorization was subsequently extended for three 60-day periods: in File No. SAT-STA-20110719-00131, File No. SAT-STA-20110913-00179, and in the November STA. The August 2011 Amendment provides details of QuickBird’s orbit and spectrum use through the anticipated end of QuickBird’s operational mission in 2014, and includes information requested by the Commission regarding the extent to which DigitalGlobe intends to continue radio communication with the spacecraft during its descent to the atmosphere as it completes its mission.

DigitalGlobe acknowledges that operation of QuickBird under the STA extension requested here will continue to be on a non-harmful interference basis and at DigitalGlobe’s own risk. At all times during the term of the STA requested here, QuickBird will be in full compliance with the international power flux-density limits that apply to QuickBird operations in the 8025-8400 MHz band. DigitalGlobe reiterates that all of the technical showings and statements from the November STA remain applicable, and incorporates the showings therein by reference. Moreover, all technical statements from the August 2011 Amendment remain applicable as well.

The public interest will be advanced by extension of the life of QuickBird and continued provision of the services that DigitalGlobe has provided over QuickBird since 2001.

For these reasons, DigitalGlobe respectfully requests that the November STA be extended for an additional 60 days – i.e., through March 16, 2012.