

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

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In the Matter of)	
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ECHOSTAR SATELLITE OPERATING)	File No. SAT-STA-20120531-00091
CORPORATION)	File No. SAT-STA-_____
)	Call Sign S2811
Applications for Special Temporary)	
Authority to Operate EchoStar 15 at 61.65°)	
W.L.)	
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APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY

By this application, and pursuant to Section 25.120(b)(4) of the Commission’s rules,¹ EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation (“ESOC,” and collectively with its affiliates, “EchoStar”) hereby requests a 30-day renewal of its special temporary authority (“STA”) to operate the EchoStar 15 satellite at the 61.65° W.L. orbital position.

I. BACKGROUND

As the Commission is aware, on July 10, 2010, EchoStar successfully launched EchoStar 15, a 32-transponder Direct Broadcast Satellite (“DBS”) that, in light of the loss of AMC-14,² effectively replaced EchoStar 3.³ EchoStar 15 became fully operational on August 5, 2010. EchoStar 15 has been operating at 61.55° W.L. since its launch, providing capacity for

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 25.120(b)(4).

² See Letter from Pantelis Michalopoulos, Counsel for EchoStar Corporation, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, File No. SAT-STA-20080923-00193 (Dec. 30, 2008).

³ See Stamp Grant, File No. SAT-LOA-20100310-00043 (granted July 1, 2010).

EchoStar's customer, DISH Network L.L.C., to provide Direct Broadcast Satellite ("DBS") service to U.S. consumers.

EchoStar is now preparing to launch the EchoStar 16 satellite as early as August 2012, which will further supplement the service provided from 61.5° W.L. and ensure the continued full utilization of the DBS spectrum at that orbital location. In anticipation of this launch and the assumption of operations at 61.5° W.L. by EchoStar 16, EchoStar is repositioning the spacecraft in the 61.5° W.L. orbital cluster. EchoStar now has satellites at 61.35° W.L. (EchoStar 12), 61.65° W.L. (EchoStar 15), and 61.8° W.L. (EchoStar 3).⁴ Upon the successful launch of EchoStar 16 later this year, which will be placed at 61.5° W.L., EchoStar's satellites in the cluster will be aligned at 0.15° separation, with the three operational satellites centered around the 61.5° W.L. nominal orbital location.

This renewal STA is necessary to allow the continued operation of EchoStar 15 while EchoStar's application for a 180-day STA remains pending before the Commission.⁵

II. THIS REQUEST IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND WILL NOT CAUSE HARMFUL INTERFERENCE

The requested STA is in the public interest for the same reason EchoStar was granted STA to move and operate EchoStar 15 at 61.65° W.L. Moreover, grant of this application will ensure safe station-keeping margins for each of the satellites that are located at the nominal 61.5° W.L. orbital location. ESOC will operate EchoStar 15 on a non-harmful interference basis in accordance with the conditions imposed on the original STA grant.⁶

⁴ Policy Branch Information, Actions Taken, Report No. SAT-00865, File No. SAT-STA-20120424-00073 (eff. April 30, 2012).

⁵ See File No. SAT-STA-20120531-00092 (filed May 31, 2012).

⁶ See Stamp Grant, File No. SAT-STA-20120531-00091 (granted June 12, 2012).

