

Sirius XM Radio Inc.
Request for Special Temporary Authority
for FM-6 Satellite

Satellite CD Radio LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sirius XM Radio Inc. (“Sirius XM”), herein requests a grant of Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) to conduct performance testing and TT&C of the FM-6 satellite (call sign S2812) at the 120.5° W.L. orbital location for 180 days, commencing approximately 30 days after launch. Sirius XM expects to launch the FM-6 satellite on August 14, 2013 and will notify the FCC of changes in this launch date that may affect the timing of the authority requested.

Sirius XM has previously received authority to conduct in orbit testing (“IOT”) of the FM-6 spacecraft at 120.5° W.L. for thirty days, commencing 12 days after launch of the satellite, and to use TT&C both to support IOT at 120.5° W.L. and to drift the satellite to its permanent location at 116.15° W.L.¹ With this STA request, Sirius XM seeks to extend the authorized period of FM-6’s operations at 120.5° W.L. to allow for performance testing and continued TT&C. Performance testing will commence following completion of IOT. After performance testing is complete, Sirius XM will relocate FM-6 to its permanently licensed location at 116.15° W.L.

Sirius XM will conduct performance testing and TT&C in the satellite’s authorized frequency bands:

7051.5 – 7052.5 MHz and 7055.5 – 7056.5 MHz (command)
2320.0 – 2332.5 MHz (service transmissions and telemetry)
7060.0 – 7072.5 MHz (uplink)

Grant of this STA will serve the public interest by ensuring continued quality satellite radio services to customers. As the Commission is aware, the FM-6 satellite, a geostationary orbit (“GSO”) satellite, ultimately will be used in conjunction with Sirius XM’s FM-5 satellite (call sign S2710) to replace Sirius XM’s current non-geostationary satellite orbit (“NGSO”) constellation (call sign S2105) launched in 2000.² The performance testing of FM-6 at 120.5° W.L. will include a series of tests to confirm the signal quality and service availability of this GSO satellite. The tests generally would monitor the satellite’s signal reception on the ground using current and future subscriber receivers.

Grant of this request will not cause harmful interference to other satellite operators. Sirius XM won exclusive satellite rights to the 2.3 GHz S-band spectrum at auction and will coordinate internally its performance testing and TT&C operations with its other in-orbit satellites. No other satellite operators will be affected by Sirius XM’s use of these

¹ *Policy Branch Information; Actions Taken*, Public Notice, Report No. SAT-00805, DA 11-1498, File No. SAT-MOD-20110525-00099 (Sept. 2, 2011).

² *Id.*

frequencies. Moreover, the testing and TT&C will not cause harmful interference to the operations of any other spacecraft. No satellites use the S-band or X-band frequencies within two degrees of 120.5° W.L.

In light of the above, Sirius XM respectfully requests Commission approval of this STA request.