

SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST FOR SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY

On December 30, 2019, Space Exploration Holdings, LLC (“SpaceX”), pursuant to Section 25.120 of the Commission’s rules, requested Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) for 180 days so that satellites launched into its non-geostationary orbit (“NGSO”) Starlink constellation can communicate with earth stations operated by its sister company, SpaceX Services, Inc. (“SpaceX Services”) during the orbit-raising and de-orbit phases and early operations of its satellites.¹ In making that request, it was SpaceX’s intention that the resulting STA would extend to all satellites launched to date as well as all those subsequently launched during the period the STA was in force. However, the public notice accepting the application for filing included only the latter, indicating that the request related to “satellites to be launched during the 180-day period covered by this STA.”²

Accordingly, SpaceX files this supplement to make clear that the requested 180-day STA should cover all SpaceX satellites operating under its Ku-/Ka-band NGSO authorization (call sign S2983/S3018) during the orbit-raising and de-orbit phases and early operations on station, regardless of when they were launched. This would include, to the extent necessary, extensions of the STAs for satellites launched in May 2019,³ November 2019,⁴ and to date in 2020,⁵ while also covering those subsequently launched. All other aspects of the existing STA request would remain unchanged.

The Commission has good cause to approve this supplemental request. As with the original STA request and STAs granted over the last year, granting this supplemental request would enhance the safety of space. In addition, granting a longer-term STA that would cover satellites previously launched as well as ongoing launch activities will alleviate the burden on staff resources of issuing short-term STAs in connection with each tranche of satellites launched by SpaceX. Accordingly, the STA will serve the public interest by enhancing space safety and promoting the health and safety of SpaceX’s NGSO constellation while increasing administrative efficiency.

¹ See Request for Special Temporary Authority, IBFS File No. SAT-STA-20191230-00156 (filed Dec. 30, 2019).

² Public Notice, Rep. No. 01437 (Jan. 10, 2020).

³ See, e.g., Grant Stamp, IBFS File No. SAT-STA-20191220-00151 (Jan. 2, 2020).

⁴ See, e.g., Grant Stamp, IBFS File No. SAT-STA-20200103-00005 (Jan. 30, 2020).

⁵ See, e.g., Grant Stamp, IBFS File No. SAT-STA-20191230-00155 (Jan. 16, 2020).