

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY

SpaceX Exploration Holdings, LLC (“SpaceX”), pursuant to Section 25.120 of the Commission’s rules, hereby requests a 30-day extension of its existing Special Temporary Authority (“STA”)¹ to allow continued communications between its authorized first-generation non-geostationary orbit (“NGSO”) satellites (call sign S2983/S3018) and user terminal (“UT”) earth stations operated by its sister company, SpaceX Services, Inc. (“SpaceX Services”), at an elevation angle no less than 10 degrees in polar regions—i.e., at latitudes above 53 degrees.

SpaceX has been operating under the existing STA without incident, and has also filed an application for a longer-term STA for these operations that remains pending.² Granting an extension of the existing STA would authorize operations while the Commission continues to process that application and would serve the public interest by enabling SpaceX to continue deployment of high-speed, low-latency service in polar regions of the United States in the period before its NGSO system is sufficiently deployed to provide service at its already-authorized 25-degree minimum elevation angle. This will speed the deployment of next-generation satellite service to some of the most underserved areas of the country, driving high-speed, low-latency broadband connectivity that will help consumers connect to work, school, healthcare, and government services.

SpaceX will continue to operate under this STA on a non-interference basis. Consistent with its space station authorization, SpaceX will observe the applicable equivalent power flux-density (“EPFD”) limits set forth in Article 22 and Resolution 76 of the ITU Radio Regulations and the applicable power flux-density (“PFD”) limits set forth in the Commission’s rules and Article 21 of the ITU Radio Regulations, which the Commission has found sufficient to protect GSO systems and terrestrial systems, respectively, against harmful interference. Nonetheless, in the extremely unlikely event that harmful interference should occur due to transmissions to or from its spacecraft, SpaceX will take all reasonable steps to eliminate the interference. Should an issue arise, SpaceX can be reached at satellite-operators-pager@spacex.com, which links to the pagers of appropriate technical personnel 24/7.

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission should find that the continued authorization of these operations in polar regions would serve the public interest and grant an STA extension for an additional 30 days.

¹ See Grant Stamp, IBFS File No. SAT-STA-20230313-00058 (IB, Mar. 20, 2023).

² See IBFS File No. SAT-STA-20230310-00058 (filed Mar. 10, 2023).