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MAR 28 2003

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY Bureau

March 28, 2003

HAND DELIVERY

Donald Abelson, Chief
International Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Policy Division
International Bureau

**Re: R/L DBS Company, LLC Direct Broadcast Satellite
Construction Permit, File Nos. DBS 87-01, 94-SAT-AL-96,
94-SAT-TC-96, 49-SAT-TC-95, 130-SAT-EXT-95**

Dear Mr. Abelson:

R/L DBS Company, LLC ("Rainbow DBS") is pleased to report to the International Bureau that Rainbow DBS and its spacecraft manufacturer have timely and successfully completed the following milestones related to the construction of the Rainbow DBS Direct Broadcast Satellite Service ("DBS") satellite that were required to be completed by March 29, 2003 in accordance with the Commission's *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, 16 FCC Rcd 9 (2000) ("*Extension Order*").^{1/}

Specifically, the following milestones have been achieved:

- Complete Thermal Vacuum Test;

^{1/} On June 22, 2001, the International Bureau granted the request of Rainbow DBS to substitute, for the milestones referenced in the Extension Order, alternative milestones that more accurately reflect the manufacturing processes and sequences of Lockheed Martin Commercial Space Systems ("Lockheed Martin"), the entity that Rainbow DBS selected to construct the satellite (See File No. SAT-MOD-20010611-00051). Therefore, Rainbow DBS is using the Lockheed Martin milestones for purposes of this report.

SAT-MOD-19950303-00014

Donald Abelson, Chief
March 28, 2003
Page 2

- Complete Dynamics; and
- Complete Range Testing.

Rainbow DBS has applied for an extension on the final three milestones (Complete Final Test, Ship to Launch Site, and Launch Satellite) until August 31, 2003.^{2/} This extension was requested due to unavoidable delays in the launch schedule encountered on the Atlas V launch vehicle program.

Construction of the Rainbow-1 satellite is now complete. Lockheed Martin will maintain the satellite in temporary storage in an environmentally-controlled area at its manufacturing facilities in Sunnyvale, California. Rainbow-1 will remain in Sunnyvale until it is time to ship the satellite to the launch site, approximately five to six weeks before the launch date. If the need for any additional testing should arise before that time, Lockheed Martin will be able to conduct the appropriate tests.

Should you have any questions regarding the foregoing, please communicate with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Benjamin J. Griffin
Christopher R. Bjornson
Counsel for Rainbow DBS

^{2/} R/L DBS Company, LLC, Minor Amendment to Application for Minor Modification to Direct Broadcast Satellite Authorization, for Extension of Launch Milestone for Rainbow 1 (USABSS-17), File No. SAT-MOD-20030110-00009 (filed March 14, 2003). A copy of the Extension Request and the amendment are attached.

MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS, GLOVSKY AND POPEO, P.C.

Donald Abelson, Chief

March 28, 2003

Page 3

cc: Anna Gomez
Tom Tycz
Selina Khan
Jennifer Gilsenan
John Martin
Sasha Field
Doug Webbink
Mark Young
Terrence Reideler
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