

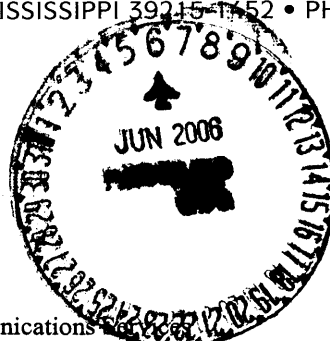
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HINDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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May 23, 2006

Malcolm E. McMillin
Sheriff



Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Obstacles to Delivery of Next-Generation Satellite Communications
(File Nos. SES-LFS-20050826-01175; SES-MFS-20051122-01614; SES-STA-20060307-00374; SES-STA-20060310-00419; SES-LFS-20050930-01352; SES-MFS-20060118-00050; SES-STA-20060308-00388; SES-STA-20060313-00430; SES-LFS-20051011-01396; SES-STA-20060314-00438; SES-MFS-20051207-01709; SES-STA-20060307-00372; SES-LFS-20051123-01634; SES-STA-20060316-00454; SES-MFS-20051202-01665; SES-STA-20060307-00373; SES-LFS-20060303-00343; SES-STA-20060315-00445)

Dear Chairman Martin:

On August 29, 2005, the Great State of Mississippi suffered the most devastating natural disaster in its history – Hurricane Katrina. Telephone lines and cellular towers were destroyed making communication with our coastal communities difficult. During this time, Mobile Satellite Ventures provided crucial, reliable communications to key agencies and first responders to this disaster. This communications capability was crucial to the response and the recovery efforts following Hurricane Katrina. There is no doubt that by having MSV's mobile satellite services, many lives were saved and relief was provided to thousands of our citizens.

Now, MSV has developed a new terrestrial-satellite system designed to give our first responders additional support. This next-generation hybrid system will allow them to easily shift to satellite service and receive broadband access using the same hand-held device. With this technology, mobile broadband service will be available to rural areas. This is particularly important in a rural state such as Mississippi. There are two roadblocks that could possibly get in the way of delivery of this next-generation satellite system. First, the L band spectrum that was loaned to Inmarsat must be returned to MSV. Second, the L band space needs to be reallocated so that each party's shares are contiguous. By taking these steps, MSV and others can have next-generation satellite services available to the key agencies and first responders.

It is my belief that the Commission can play an important role in making all this possible by redistributing the L band spectrum and by requiring the loaned L band spectrum be returned to MSV. Therefore, I respectfully request that the Commission take the steps necessary to remove these obstacles so that MSV and others can make their next-generation satellite services available in a timely and efficient manner.

Sincerely,


Malcolm E. McMillin

Cc: Senator Thad Cochran
Senator Trent Lott
Governor Haley Barbour