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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of)
)
CHANNEL 2 BROADCASTING COMPANY)
)
Application for Temporary Fixed Earth)
Station Authority In the Domestic)
Fixed-Satellite Service)

File No. SES-LIC-200401106-00142
E040060

MAY 24 2004

Satellite and
Radiocommunications Division
International Bureau

PETITION TO DENY OF PANAMSAT CORPORATION

PanAmSat Corporation ("PanAmSat") hereby petitions to deny the above-referenced application ("Application") of Channel 2 Broadcasting Company ("Channel 2"). For reasons that are discussed below, Channel 2 should be required to supplement the information provided and demonstrate that its proposed antenna will not cause excessive interference to adjacent satellites.¹ Absent this showing, Channel 2's Application should be denied.

DISCUSSION

Channel 2 seeks a license to operate a 1.0-meter Ku-band transmit/receive portable fixed-satellite service ("FSS") earth station. Channel 2 proposes to use its earth station in order to provide uplink services for its Satellite News Gathering operations.²

Section 25.209(f) of the Commission's rules³ states that earth stations not conforming to the performance standards set forth in Sections 25.209(a) and (b)⁴ will not

¹ If Channel 2's request for "ALSAT" authority is granted, its proposed earth station could communicate with numerous satellites that are within two degrees of PanAmSat satellites.

² See Application at FCC Form 312 ("Application").

be routinely authorized absent “a finding by the Commission that unacceptable levels of interference will not be caused under conditions of uniform 2° orbital spacings.” Channel 2 checked the “yes” box in response to Item B8 of Schedule B of its application, indicating that its proposed 1.0-meter antenna complies with the antenna gain patterns specified in Sections 25.209(a) and (b). However, PanAmSat’s experience indicates that 1.0 m Ku-band antennas do not comply with the $29-25\log\theta$ antenna gain pattern for $\theta \geq 1^\circ$, or even for $\theta \geq 1.25^\circ$.

Since the application available to PanAmSat does not contain manufacturer’s measurements, compliance with Sections 25.209(a) and (b) could not be verified. If, as expected by PanAmSat, the antenna is non-compliant, Channel 2 would have to provide a showing concerning interference at 2° orbital spacings.⁶ As part of that showing, it should be recognized that whether Channel 2’s proposed operations pose an interference threat to adjacent satellites turns on more than Channel 2’s antenna pattern and power levels. That interference potential also depends on the extent to which Channel 2’s antenna will be aligned, or misaligned. Channel 2 is silent on this issue.

It is essential that a proper evaluation be made prior to licensing. PanAmSat knows from past experience that detecting and eliminating a source of interference can be costly and time-consuming for customers, service providers, and satellite operators.

Channel 2, therefore, should be required to supplement its Application with information described above, namely: antenna diagrams; a showing concerning interference at 2° orbital spacings; and a description that would enable the Commission to ascertain whether Channel 2’s antenna will be pointed properly.

³ 47 C.F.R. § 25.209(f).

⁴ Sections 25.209(a) and (b) of the Commission’s rules define the required antenna performance standards for gain and off-axis cross polarization gain of any antenna employed in transmission from an earth station to a space station in the domestic FSS.

⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 25.209(g).

⁶ Even if Channel 2’s antenna pattern were conforming, Channel 2’s Application would not be eligible for routine processing, because its antenna diameter is smaller than 1.2 meters. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 25.212(c).

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission should deny Channel 2's Application unless Channel 2 demonstrates radiated levels are consistent with two-degree spacing requirements and that its installation procedures would result in an accurately aligned antenna.

Respectfully submitted,

PANAMSAT CORPORATION

By:



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May 14, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was sent by first-class mail, postage prepaid, this 14th day of May 2004 to the following:

Channel 2 Broadcatsing Company
Attention: Leland R. Verschueren
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Anchorage, AK 99503


Candace Gentry