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July 30, 1999

## VIA COURIER DELIVERY TO MELLON BANK

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20554

Re:

Request for Extension of Waiver of Footnote US315

File No. 681-DSE-MP/L-95

Dear Ms. Salas:

AMSC Subsidiary Corporation ("AMSC") hereby requests an additional two-year extension of the Commission's waiver of Footnote US315 to Section 2.106 of the Commission's Rules. Grant of an extension of this waiver will permit AMSC to continue to provide vital data services to its subscribers in a manner consistent with the Commission's rules.

On August 1, 1995, the Commission granted AMSC special temporary authority to operate its satellite and approximately 3100 half-duplex half-duplex mobile earth terminals ("METs") outside its assigned spectrum on the lower L-band. In conjunction with this STA, the Commission also granted AMSC a waiver of Footnote US315 to Section 2.106 of the Commission's Rules, which requires MSS terminals operating in the lower L-band to provide priority access and real-time preemptive capability for maritime distress and safety communications. While the Commission found that AMSC's half-duplex terminals do not fully comply with Footnote US315 as a technical matter, it stated that, "[b]ased on AMSC's statistical analysis of average message length and related information, we believe that, under current

AMSC Subsidiary Corporation For Modification of its Blanket License to Construct and Operate 30,000 L-Band Mobile Earth Stations, 10 FCC Rcd 10458 (1995). AMSC has continued to operate in the lower L-band under a succession of six-month STA grants. See FCC File Nos. 1433-SSA-MP/L-95, 300-SSA-EXT-96. This authority also covers the additional 18,000 METs transferred from Rockwell's authorization to AMSC's blanket license on November 20, 1996. See FCC File No. 179-DSE-MP/L-97.

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conditions, existing data METs in the lower L-band will provide sufficient distress and safety communication priority to comply with the intent of US315." 10 FCC Rcd at 10461. Accordingly, the Commission granted AMSC a two-year waiver, conditioned on AMSC's continued use of its AMSC Network Operations Center management and various operational standards.

In July 1997, AMSC requested that the Commission grant a two-year extension of this waiver to permit the continued operation of AMSC's half-duplex terminals in the lower L-band. AMSC hereby requests an additional two-year extension of this waiver. Such an extension should enable AMSC to resolve issues pertaining to operation of terminals in the upper L-band.

AMSC has notified the U.S. Coast Guard ("USCG") of this request. The USCG did not object to the earlier request for an extension of the Commission's waiver of Footnote US315. In addition, AMSC will continue to adhere to the conditions established by the Commission in its 1995 Order.

Attached hereto is a check made payable to the Federal Communications Commission for the sum of One Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$135.00) to cover the fee associated with this filing. AMSC hereby certifies that no party to this application is subject to a denial of Federal benefits pursuant to Section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, 21 U.S.C. §853(a).

Please address any questions concerning this matter to the undersigned or to Bruce Jacobs at (202) 775-3543.

Very truly yours,

Lon C. Levin

cc: Fern Jarmulnek Harry Ng

## READ INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE PROCEEDING

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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FISHER WAYLAND COOPER LEADER & ZARAGOZA LLP.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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