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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

May 14, 2004

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Policy Branch
International Bureau**BY HAND DELIVERY**

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20054

Re: ***Ex Parte Notification***

FCC File Nos. SAT-STA-20030903-00300, SAT-STA-20040107-00002,
SAT-LFS-20040112-00023, SES-MOD-20040227-00295,
SES-MOD-20040227-00298, SES-MOD-20040227-00299,
and SES-MOD-20040322-00453

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to Sections 1.1204 and 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, this is to inform you that, on May 13, 2004, Romulo Pontual, Jim Butterworth, Susan Eid, and undersigned counsel on behalf of The DIRECTV Group, Inc. ("DIRECTV"), met with Kenneth Ferree, Debra Klein, and Rosalee Chiara of the Media Bureau. In this meeting, the DIRECTV representatives discussed the enclosed materials, which summarize their efforts to prepare for use of the DBS orbital slot at 72.5° W.L. allocated to Canada by the DIRECTV 5 satellite to provide local-into-local service into additional U.S. markets. They also stated that DIRECTV could achieve local-into-local service in a total of 130 markets, in satisfaction of the condition imposed in the *News/Hughes* transfer authorization, approximately 80 days after receiving Commission approval of their pending applications.

Sincerely yours,

William M. Wiltshire

Enclosures

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List ABCDE

cc: Kenneth Ferree
Debra Klein
Rosalee Chiara



LOCAL EXPANSION TO 130 MARKETS

DIRECTV 7S will free DIRECTV 5.

DIRECTV requests permission to provide local-into-local in 130 markets as promised, using DIRECTV 5 and the Canadian slot of 72.5 deg. West



Enablers of expansion to 130 markets



- DIRECTV 5 becomes available for use at 72.5 deg. W
 - DIRECTV 5 currently supporting DIRECTV traffic at 119 W will be available to move as early as June 5th, once DIRECTV 7S goes into service.
 - Drift to 72.5 W deg will take approx. 25 days from FCC approval
- Backhaul of local channels to uplink sites
 - Negotiations with telecommunications provider is under way, DIRECTV needs FCC approval to enter into binding negotiations.
- RF uplink
 - Some hardware re-configuration and purchases are needed; earth station modification apps ripe for consideration.
- Consumer equipment
 - Transmission mods, STB software and switch testing is on-going

Markets selected for 72.5 deg. West



- **Boise, ID**
- **Burlington, VT**
- **Cedar Rapids, IA**
- **Champaign, IL**
- **Chattanooga, TN**
- **Colombia, MO**
- **Davenport, IA**
- **Evansville, IN**
- **Fort Smith, AR**
- **Fort Wayne, IN**
- **Johnstown, PA**
- **Lincoln, NE**
- **Sioux Falls, SD**
- **Springfield, MO**
- **Traverse City, MI**
- **Tri-Cities, TN-VA**
- **Waco, TX**
- **TBA (7)**

What we need



- STA to relocate DIRECTV 5 to 72.5 WL
- Blanket earth station license for downlink communications to US consumers from 72.5 WL
- STA to relocate DIRECTV 3 to 82 WL
- Modifications to DIRECTV earth stations for uplinks to 72.5 WL and 82 WL

- Assuming timely FCC authorizations, DIRECTV can meet its commitment to serve 130 DMAs as early as August 20
- Schedule slips day for day that applications remain pending