

Public Interest Statement

This amendment proposes the addition of non-routine antennas to the VSAT network that is the subject of the pending application for authority (File No. SES-LIC-20090707-00840) accepted for filing by the Commission on July 15, 2009 (Report No. SES-01155). The facilities described in the pending application are currently operating in accordance with a Special Temporary Authority ("STA") most recently extended effective January 11, 2011. (Public Notice, Report No. SES-01312). The present STA is an extension of an authorization that was originally issued as File No. SES-STA-20090604-00691, effective August 4, 2009, Report No. SES-01162 (rel. 8/5/2009) and that has been serially extended by the Commission from the time of its original issuance to the present date.

During the month of January, 2011 the applicant's Compliance Officer conducted an audit of all facilities that are the subject of the pending application and the existing STA. This audit was conducted by the Applicant in an effort to confirm that all remote antennas in the Applicant's VSAT network are compliant with the Commission's routine processing antenna standards. During the course of this audit, Applicant discovered the presence of approximately 20 non-routine antennas as occasional users of the network facilities. The activation of these remote antennas is required only at times when public safety or public health incidents necessitate their use and are, at all other times, in stand-by (non-operational) status. These remote antennas serve state, municipal and law enforcement authorities, NGOs and public utilities during times of need arising from weather, natural catastrophe and public safety incidents. None of them are presently active; however, in anticipation of such times when public health or public safety events may dictate their use, the Applicant respectfully requests that the present amendment be accepted. This amendment seeks authorization to serve the remote antennas identified in Applicant's audit as well as likely additional future requirements. The public interest is well served by the utilization of VSAT networks to offer emergency and back-up communications capabilities when their service is required for populations adversely affected by public safety or public health incidents or events.