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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
International Bureau, Earth Stations
P.O. Box 358160
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15251-5160

EXPEDITED PROCESSING REQUESTED

Re: IWL Communications, Inc.
Request for Special Temporary Authority to Operate
Temporary-Fixed Earth Stations Pending Approval of Initial Application

Dear Secretary Salas:

IWL Communications, Inc. (AIWL Communications), by its undersigned attorneys and pursuant to Section 25.120 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 25.120, hereby requests Special Temporary Authority ("STA") to permit it to operate a temporary-fixed earth station pending approval of its FCC Form 312 application which is being concurrently filed with the Commission (FCC File No. IB2000000189). Included with the Form 312 is a certification of prior frequency coordination. IWL Communications seeks immediate authority to provide critical communications links for an oil drilling platform located in the Gulf of Mexico. Expedited processing is requested for the urgent reasons set forth herein.

By design, an oil drilling platform is transient in nature and can be moved to various points to locate and extract oil deposits beneath the ocean floor. In order to ensure the proper operation of the platform, as well as the safety of its crew, both routine and critical functions are monitored through the use of, in this case, a temporary-fixed earth station. The station establishes a vital link between the platform and the continental United States by providing voice and data capabilities to the platform. In the event of an emergency, this link can be used to assist in dangerous and life threatening events, or to avert situations which may lead to adverse environmental impacts.

Because oil drilling platforms are often relocated without significant advance notice, it is difficult to obtain a temporary-fixed earth station license from the Commission before the platform is operational.¹ Therefore, unless an STA is obtained, an oil platform may be without important communications capabilities during its initial stages of operation. The requested STA is necessary to ensure that critical communications facilities will be available during this start-up period in order to protect the safety of the workers on the platform, ensure the proper operation of the platform, and protect the environment. In light of these extraordinary circumstances, IWL Communications respectfully requests immediate Special Temporary Authority to operate the temporary-fixed earth station that is the subject of the attached application. IWL Communications acknowledges that grant of this request will not prejudice action by the Commission on its pending application, and that any authority granted pursuant to this request is subject to cancellation or modification upon notice, but without a hearing.

Please date stamp the extra copy of this filing, and return it in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. As required by the Commission's rules, a filing fee in the amount of \$135.00 is included with this STA request. Please direct any inquiries regarding this filing to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Wang
Edward S. Quill

Counsel for the IWL Communications, Inc.

cc: Jeanne W. Stockman

¹Applicant understands that the underlying FCC Form 312 seeks authorization to operate an antenna that does not comply with Section 25.209 of the Commission's rules and that the application may, therefore, not be eligible for routine processing. IWL further understands that Commission is reviewing its policy regarding antennas that are not Section 25.209 compliant and that a Public Notice on this matter is expected in the near future. Because that Public Notice has not yet been issued, however, Applicant respectfully requests special temporary authority to operate the subject station pending its issuance and subsequently while Applicant seeks to comply with its terms.