



International Bureau

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

March 2, 2001

Ms. Helen E. Disenhaus
Ms. Ruth Pritchard-Kelly
Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman LLP
3000 K Street NW, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20007-5116

Re: SES-STA-20010112-00046

March 1, 2001

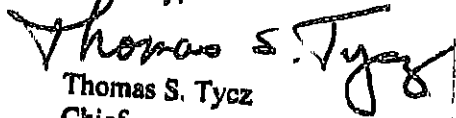
Dear Ms. Disenhaus and Pritchard-Kelly:

This letter concerns your January 12, 2001 request on behalf of Deere & Company (Deere) for Special Temporary Authority ("STA") to permit Deere's Starfire™ receive-only earth stations to receive communications from the Inmarsat IIF2 satellite, pending Commission consideration of Deere's application (SES-LIC-20010112-0051) requesting permanent authority. The Deere STA request was placed on public notice on January 18. Motient Services, Inc. (Motient) filed a Petition to Deny. Deere and MarineSat Communications Network, Inc. d/b/a Stratos Communications opposed Motient's petition. You orally requested the International Bureau to inform you by January 31 what action would be taken on the STA request in view of outstanding contractual arrangements Deere now has with Motient for receiving satellite services. On that date, the Bureau orally informed you that it would not grant the STA. This letter constitutes a formal denial of your request.

The Commission's rules provide for grant of STAs for operation of earth stations "upon a finding that there are extraordinary circumstances requiring temporary operations in the public interest". 47 C.F.R. 25.120(b). The rules further provide that "convenience to the applicant such as marketing considerations of meeting scheduled customer in-service dates, will not be deemed sufficient for this purpose." 47 C.F.R. § 25.120(b). In addition, the Open-Market Reorganization for the Betterment of International Telecommunications Act ("the ORBIT Act") requires that the Commission, in considering applications or requests for use of Inmarsat in the United States, determine whether Inmarsat has been privatized consistent with the ORBIT Act's requirements. Pub. L. 106-180, 114 Stat. 48, §601(b) (2000). See also §§ 621, 624.

The Commission is currently reviewing Inmarsat's privatization pursuant to the ORBIT Act in the context of several applications filed prior to the Deere application. Deere is now offering services via Starfire™ earth stations in the United States using the Motient satellite system. While Deere desires use of Inmarsat instead of Motient, it has not demonstrated the existence of extraordinary circumstances justifying a STA, particularly in view of the requirements of the ORBIT Act. Accordingly, Deere & Company's request for special temporary authority is DENIED.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Tycz
Chief

Satellite and Radiocommunication Division.