



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

011019909

OCT 19 2001

Mr. Donald Abelson
Chief, International Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: VISTAR Half Duplex MET Request for Extension of Temporary Authority **SES-STA-**
20010212-00310; E990316

Dear *Don* **Mr. Abelson**:

This is in response to the Commission's request for approval of an extension to a Special Temporary Authority (STA) granted to VISTAR to operate up to 10,000 half-duplex Mobile Earth Terminals (**METs**) by waiver in the maritime portion of the 1.5/1.6 GHz MSS bands. The request is in two parts, a 6 month extension of the STA and an increase in the number of **METs** to 20,000. We note that the Commission is expected to release shortly an order that will provide new additional rules for the operation of MSS half-duplex terminals that will likely have some bearing on **VISTAR's** future operations of **METs**.

NTIA previously agreed to a total of 30,000 half-duplex **METs** to be operated by waiver in the maritime portion of the 1.5/1.6 GHz MSS bands. Given the number of **METs** currently authorized, I understand that there is room for VISTAR to be authorized additional **METs** without exceeding this 30,000 total. We therefore do not object to extending the STA for an additional 6 month time period nor to authorizing VISTAR to operate additional half-duplex **METs** not to exceed the 30,000 total.

Sincerely,

William T. Hatch
Associate Administrator
Office of Spectrum Management



International Bureau

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

202-418-0437
202-418-2818 (fax)

January 25, 2002

Mr. William T. Hatch
Associate Administrator
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
Office of Spectrum Management
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Hatch:

Thank you for your letter of October 19, 2001, regarding VISTAR Data Communications, Inc.'s application for an extension of their special temporary authority (STA) and to increase the number of half duplex Mobile Earth Terminals (METs) from 10,000 to 20,000. We have granted their STA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald Abelson".

Donald Abelson
Bureau Chief