

STA REQUEST

By this application and pursuant to Section 25.120(b)(3) of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 25.120(b)(3), Americom Government Services, Inc. ("AGS") seeks special temporary authority ("STA") for sixty days to commence operations using a new C-band earth station in Mt. Airy, Maryland. AGS recently filed a request for a license for the new antenna, File No. SES-LIC-20100326-00356, Call Sign E100044 (the "AGS License Application") and seeks STA to allow it to begin using the facility pending Commission processing of its application. Grant of the requested STA will serve the public interest by permitting AGS to provide critical services to the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA"), and will not adversely affect any authorized operations.

AGS provides services to a range of federal and state government agencies, and holds a number of Commission licenses to operate earth stations used for those services. The antenna for which authority is sought here is designated for use as a back-up facility as part of the FAA's MEVA II network.¹ MEVA II is a TDMA satellite-based frame relay network connecting air traffic control facilities and civilian airports throughout the Central Caribbean Region and adjacent Flight Information Regions. MEVA II is organized under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organization, a U.N.-mandated group through which member states including the U.S. FAA work in cooperation to promote safer international flight operations.

AGS was awarded a five-year contract as part of the MEVA II network to support safe air traffic in the southern United States, the Caribbean, Central America and parts of South America. The antenna located in Mt. Airy is intended to provide critical network timing and disaster recovery capability in addition to permitting remote monitoring and troubleshooting access to terminals in the MEVA II network. Absent grant of the requested STA, the entire MEVA II network will have to be shut down if a problem arises with the primary antenna used for the network.

¹ MEVA is an acronym for the Spanish phrase "Mejoras al Enlace de Voz del ATS", meaning "Improvements to ATS (Air Traffic Service) Voice Link." The MEVA project is an important part of the International Civil Aviation Organization Caribbean Region's efforts to effect a gradual migration from legacy communication technology to more widely adopted protocols.

Grant of the STA will not result in harm to other authorized radiocommunications operations. Complete technical information regarding the new antenna is on file with the Commission as part of the AGS License Application. The planned operations have also been coordinated with nearby terrestrial systems, and a coordination report is attached to the application.

Accordingly, AGS respectfully requests that the Commission grant special temporary authority as described herein.