

April 3, 2017

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Request for Special Temporary Authority
9.2m Ka-band Antenna, Riverside, California

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Intelsat License LLC (“Intelsat”) herein requests a grant of Special Temporary Authority (“STA”)¹ for 30 days, commencing May 5, 2017, to utilize a 9.2m Ka-band antenna located at its Riverside, California teleport to provide launch and early orbit phase (“LEOP”) services for the ViaSat-2 satellite. ViaSat-2 is expected to be launched no earlier than May 5, 2017.² The LEOP period is expected to last approximately 180 days.³

The ViaSat-2 LEOP operations will be performed in the following frequencies: 29.501 GHz and 29.999 GHz (RHCP) in the uplink, and 18.301 and 18.303 GHz in the downlink (RHCP). The LEOP operations will be coordinated with all operators of satellites that use the same frequency bands and are in the LEOP path.⁴ All operators of satellites in that path will be provided with an emergency phone number where the licensee can be reached in the event that harmful interference occurs.

The 24x7 contact information for the ViaSat-2 LEOP mission is as follows:

Ph.: (703) 559-7701 – East Coast Operations Center (primary)
(310) 525-5591 – West Coast Operations Center (back-up)

Request to speak with Harry Burnham or Kevin Bell.

In further support of this request, Intelsat herewith attaches a waiver request as Exhibit A.

¹ Intelsat has filed its STA request, an FCC Form 159, a \$200.00 filing fee, and this supporting letter electronically via the International Bureau’s Filing System (“IBFS”).

² The in-orbit testing and the permanent orbital location of ViaSat-2, which Intelsat understands is licensed by the United Kingdom, will be 69.9° W.L.

³ Intelsat will also be filing a STA request for 180 days to accommodate the longer orbit-raising time period required for an electric propulsion satellite.

⁴ Boeing, the manager of the ViaSat-2 LEOP mission, will handle the coordination.

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Finally, Intelsat clarifies that during the ViaSat-2 mission, Boeing will serve as the mission manager. Boeing will build and send the commands to the Intelsat antenna, which will process and execute the commands. Telemetry received by Intelsat will be forwarded to Boeing. Intelsat will perform the ranging sessions by sending a tone to the spacecraft periodically. Intelsat will remain in control of the baseband unit, RF equipment, and antenna.

Grant of this STA request will allow Intelsat to help launch the ViaSat-2 satellite. This, in turn, will help provide services at the 69.9° W.L. orbital location and thereby promotes the public interest.

Please direct any questions regarding this STA request to the undersigned at (703) 559-6949.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia J. Grady". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cynthia J. Grady
Regulatory Counsel
Intelsat Corporation

cc: Paul Blais