

APPLICATION FOR EARTH STATION SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY

APPLICANT INFORMATION Enter a description of this application to identify it on the main menu:  
Chevak STA

**I. Applicant**

<b>Name:</b>	GCI Communication Corp.	<b>Phone Number:</b>	907-868-5615
<b>DBA Name:</b>		<b>Fax Number:</b>	907-868-9817
<b>Street:</b>	2550 Denali St, Ste 1000	<b>E-Mail:</b>	gcilicensemanager@gci.com
<b>City:</b>	Anchorage	<b>State:</b>	AK
<b>Country:</b>	USA	<b>Zipcode:</b>	99503 -2737
<b>Attention:</b>	Ms Cynthia L Hall		



File # SES-STA-20180423-00391

Call Sign N/A Grant Date 04/24/2018  
(or other identifier)

Term Dates  
From 04/25/2018 To: 06/24/2018

Approved: [Signature]

Applicant: GCI Communication Corp.  
File No: SES-STA-20180423-00391  
Call Sign: None

GCI Communication Corp. ("GCI") is granted special temporary authority for 60 days, beginning April 25, 2018, to operate a fixed earth station antenna in Chevak, AK, at 61° 31' 47.8" N, 165° 34' 51.1" W with the EUTELSAT 115 WB (SATMEX 7) (S2938) satellite at the 114.9° W.L. orbital location in the 3786-3858 MHz (space-to-Earth) and the 6011-6883 MHz (Earth-to-space) frequency bands under the following conditions.

1. Operations shall not cause harmful interference to, and shall not claim protection from, interference caused to it by any other lawfully operating station and it shall cease transmission(s) immediately upon notice of such interference.
2. In the event that there is a report of interference GCI must immediately terminate transmissions and notify the FCC in writing.
3. Any action taken or expense incurred as a result of operations pursuant to this special temporary authority is solely at GCI's risk.
4. GCI shall take all reasonable and customary measures to ensure that the earth station does not create a potential for harmful non-ionizing radiation to persons who may be in the vicinity of the earth station when it is in operation. The earth station operator shall be responsible for assuring that individuals do not stray into the regions around the earth station where there is a potential for exceeding the maximum permissible exposure limits.
5. Grant of this STA is without prejudice to any determination that the Commission may make regarding any pending or future applications.
6. During operations the earth station operator must be available to respond to interference issues and shut down operations if needed.

This grant is issued pursuant to Section 0.261 of the Commission's rules on delegated authority, 47 C.F.R. § 0.261, and is effective upon release.



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Term Dates  
From 04/25/2018 To: 06/24/2018  
Approved: Paul E. Blair

<b>2. Contact</b>			
<b>Name:</b>	Cindy L Hall	<b>Phone Number:</b>	907-868-5615
<b>Company:</b>	GCI Communication Corp	<b>Fax Number:</b>	907-868-9817
<b>Street:</b>	2550 Denali St, Ste 1000	<b>E-Mail:</b>	chall2@gci.com
<b>City:</b>	Anchorage	<b>State:</b>	AK
<b>Country:</b>	USA	<b>Zipcode:</b>	99503 -2737
<b>Attention:</b>		<b>Relationship:</b>	Same
(If your application is related to an application filed with the Commission, enter either the file number or the IB Submission ID of the related application. Please enter only one.)			
3. Reference File Number or Submission ID			
4a. Is a fee submitted with this application?			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> If Yes, complete and attach FCC Form 159. If No, indicate reason for fee exemption (see 47 C.F.R. Section 1.1114).			
<input type="radio"/> Governmental Entity <input type="radio"/> Noncommercial educational licensee			
<input type="radio"/> Other (please explain):			
4b. Fee Classification CGX – Fixed Satellite Transmit/Receive Earth Station			
5. Type Request			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Use Prior to Grant <input type="radio"/> Change Station Location <input type="radio"/> Other			
6. Requested Use Prior Date			
04/25/2018			
7. City/Chevak		8. Latitude	
		(dd mm ss.s h) 61 31 47.8	

9. State AK	10. Longitude (dd mm ss.s h) 165 34 51.1
11. Please supply any need attachments. Attachment 1: Exhibit 1 Attachment 2: Attachment 3:	
12. Description. (If the complete description does not appear in this box, please go to the end of the form to view it in its entirety.) <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">GCI Communication Corp is seeking a 60-day special temporary authorization (STA) commencing immediately, to operate an emergency temporary fixed satellite service (FSS) earth stations in the 3.7-4.2 GHz band</div>	
13. By checking Yes, the undersigned certifies that neither applicant nor any other party to the application is subject to a denial of Federal benefits that includes FCC benefits pursuant to Section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Act of 1988, 21 U.S.C. Section 862, because of a conviction for possession or distribution of a controlled substance. See 47 CFR 1.2002(b) for the meaning of "party to the application"; for these purposes. <p style="text-align: right;">Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/></p>	
14. Name of Person Signing Jimmy Sipes	15. Title of Person Signing VP, Network Services & Chief Engineer
WILLFUL FALSE STATEMENTS MADE ON THIS FORM ARE PUNISHABLE BY FINE AND / OR IMPRISONMENT (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001), AND/OR REVOCATION OF ANY STATION AUTHORIZATION (U.S. Code, Title 47, Section 312(a)(1)), AND/OR FORFEITURE (U.S. Code, Title 47, Section 503).	

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**THE FOREGOING NOTICE IS REQUIRED BY THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 1995, PUBLIC LAW 104-13, OCTOBER 1, 1995, 44 U.S.C. SECTION 3507.**



**GCI Communication Corp.**  
**Application for Special Temporary Authority**

**APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY**

Pursuant to Section 25.120 of the Federal Communications Commission (the “FCC” or “Commission”) rules, 47 C.F.R. §25.120, GCI Communication Corp. (“GCI”) is seeking a 60-day special temporary authorization (“STA”) commencing immediately,<sup>1</sup> to operate an emergency temporary fixed satellite service (“FSS”) earth station in the 3.7-4.2 GHz band (the “C-Band”).<sup>2</sup> Specifically, GCI is seeking temporary authorization to install and operate one 3.6 meter Scientific Atlanta 8136 antenna earth station (the “Station”) located at Chevak Central Office in Chevak, Alaska to communicate with SATMEX 7. Because GCI is requesting an STA for a period not to exceed 60 days pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §25.120(3), and will be filing a request

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<sup>1</sup> GCI submits that there are “extraordinary reasons . . . that could not have been earlier foreseen” that warrant a waiver of the three working day review period pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 25.120(a). Here, GCI is seeking emergency, immediate, support for its microwave communications link that has gone down due to harsh weather in remote areas of Western Alaska. GCI has attempted to remedy this situation by relying on flyaway Ku-Band VSAT stations in these areas, but these emergency deployments have recently proven unable to withstand the high wind and severe weather in this area of Alaska. As a result, services have been severely impacted, and therefore GCI seeks this emergency STA to utilize the above-reference antenna on C-Band spectrum as soon as possible in order to restore reliable services to these areas.

<sup>2</sup> GCI recognizes that the International, Public Safety and Homeland Security, and Wireless Telecommunications Bureaus (the “Bureaus”) recently announced a freeze effective April 19, 2018 “on the filing of new or modification applications for [FSS] earth station licenses, receive-only earth station registrations, and fixed microwave licenses in the 3.7-4.2 GHz frequency band.” Based on the text of the Public Notice, STA requests for FSS earth station licenses in the C-Band are not covered by the freeze. However, out of an abundance of caution, if the Bureaus were to determine that such an STA is considered a filing prohibited by this freeze, GCI respectfully requests a waiver of the freeze, as a grant of this STA request would “serve the public interest and not undermine the objectives of the freeze,” as detailed herein and further discussed in GCI’s request for waiver of this filing freeze in connection with its application for a new FSS earth station license. *See also Temporary Freeze on Applications for New or Modified Fixed Satellite Service Earth Stations and Fixed Microwave Stations in the 3.7-4.2 GHz Band, 90 Day Window to File Applications for Earth Stations Currently Operating in 3.7-4.2 GHz Band*, Public Notice, 1, 3, DA 18-398 (rel. Apr. 19, 2018).

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for regular authority for this service,<sup>3</sup> this application need not be placed on public notice and should be granted expeditiously pursuant to the rules. GCI's operation of this Station would not cause harmful interference into surrounding networks, and as demonstrated below, there are extraordinary circumstances supporting the immediate grant of these temporary operations which are in the public interest and any delay in the institution of these temporary operations would seriously prejudice the public interest.

Grant of this request for STA is necessary for GCI to continue providing reliable communications services, including critical emergency 911 services, to GCI's customers and would serve the public interest. GCI seeks this STA due to extensive damage caused by weather elements in remote areas of Alaska. Specifically, GCI's Askinuk Mountain tower is experiencing severe icing issues that has caused its microwave link, which services remote villages in western Alaska (Chevak and Hooper Bay), to become unreliable. This link is the primary link to communications in these villages, and provides not only mobile wireless voice and broadband services, but also supports telehealth services, school access services, wireless 911 routing, and serves as a backup to wireline 911 services. In an effort to remedy this situation, GCI initially intended to temporarily operate in this area using flyaway Ku-Band VSAT stations, however these emergency deployments have proven unable to withstand the high wind and severe weather in this area of Alaska. As a result, GCI recently discovered that its services continue to be severely impacted, and therefore seeks this emergency STA to utilize the above-referenced antenna on C-Band spectrum. Without a grant of this requested temporary

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<sup>3</sup> As discussed above, GCI recognizes the current filing freeze on new applications for FSS earth station licenses, and will be seeking a waiver of the freeze in connection with its filing of a new application for a FSS earth station license, demonstrating that waiver will serve the public interest and not undermine the objectives of the freeze.

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authority, remote residents in western Alaska may not have access to vital communications services, including accessing 911 services.

Here, “there are extraordinary circumstances requiring temporary operations in the public interest” and “delay in the institution of these temporary operations would seriously prejudice the public interest.”<sup>4</sup> A grant of this STA would continue to allow GCI to provide critical services to approximately 2300 western Alaskan residents over this license. Many, if not most, of these affected residents rely solely on GCI’s services for a link to the world outside of their remote villages. This is due in large part to the challenging nature of providing mobile service in Alaska. Such challenges include “its remoteness, lack of roads, challenges and costs associated with transporting fuel, lack of scalability per community, satellite and backhaul availability, extreme weather conditions, challenging topography, and short construction season.”<sup>5</sup> GCI relies on the 3.7 GHz band in order to provide its FSS operations, and has a very long history of providing C-band satellite communications solutions in Alaska in ways that advance the satellite technology space in an effort to provide communications services in rural Alaska. In addition, the substantial public service record of GCI indicates that the company is committed to providing service to consumers in Alaska. Therefore, it has sought regular authority for such a license, in order to avoid encountering a situation such as this next winter. Because GCI does not want service to its customers, including potential access to emergency services, to be implicated during the pendency of this request, it is also requesting this STA. Allowing a STA to permit

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<sup>4</sup> 47 C.F.R. §25.120(b)(1).

<sup>5</sup> *Connect America Fund; Universal Service Reform – Mobility Fund; Connect America Fund - Alaska Plan*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 31 FCC Rcd 10139, 10162, ¶ 72 (2016) (“*Alaska Plan R&O*”) (citing *Connect America Fund et al.*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 26 FCC Rcd 17663, 17829, ¶ 507 (2011) (“*USF/ICC Transformation Order*”), *aff’d sub nom. FCC 11-161*, 753 F.3d 1015 (10th Cir. 2014)).



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GCI to continue to provide service over the C-Band, for 60 days, would certainly be in the public interest. This continued service illustrates a “compelling reason” to expeditiously grant the requested STA.

In addition, GCI’s proposed construction of the earth station antenna as detailed in this application does not require FAA notification prior to construction pursuant to the FCC’s rules, as the antenna height will be under 6.10 meters or 20 feet.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 17.7.