

May 25, 2018

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Request for Special Temporary Authority
Ellenwood, Georgia Earth Station E170122

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Intelsat License LLC (“Intelsat”) herein requests a grant of Special Temporary Authority (“STA”)¹ for 30 days, commencing June 27, 2018, to use its Ellenwood, Georgia Ku-band earth station—call sign E170122²—to provide launch and early orbit phase (“LEOP”) services for the SES-12 satellite. SES-12 is expected to be launched on May 31, 2018.³ Intelsat expects the LEOP period to last approximately 180 days.⁴

The SES-12 LEOP operations will be performed at the following frequencies: 13998.0 MHz, 13996.5 MHz, 13999.5 MHz, 14494.5 MHz, 14496.0 MHz, 14497.5 MHz, and 14499.0 MHz (CP) in the uplink; and 11499.5 MHz and 11703.5 MHz (CP) in the downlink. The LEOP operations will be coordinated with all operators of satellites that use the same frequency bands and are in the LEOP path.⁵ 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 SES-12 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.

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

² Intelsat has a pending license application for this antenna. *See Satellite Communications Services; Satellite Radio Applications Accepted for Filing*, Report No. SES-01978, File No. SES-LIC-20170707-00740 (Aug. 2, 2017) (Public Notice).

³ The in-orbit testing location for SES-12, which Intelsat understands is licensed by the Netherlands, will be 81.5° E.L. The final location of SES-12 will be 95.0° E.L.

⁴ The SES-12 satellite employs electric propulsion. Intelsat is simultaneously filing a 180-day STA request to support the SES-12 LEOP mission.

⁵ Airbus, the manager of the SES-12 LEOP mission, will handle the coordination.

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In further support of this request, Intelsat herewith attaches Exhibits A and B, which contain a coordination report and waiver requests. In the extremely unlikely event that harmful interference should occur due to transmissions to or from its earth station, Intelsat will take all reasonable steps to eliminate the interference.

Finally, Intelsat clarifies that during the SES-12 LEOP mission, Airbus will serve as the mission manager. Airbus 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 Airbus. 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 SES-12 satellite. This, in turn, will help provide additional capacity from the 95.0° E.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,

/s/ Cynthia J. Grady

Cynthia J. Grady
Regulatory Counsel
Intelsat Corporation

cc: Paul Blais