


APPLICATION FOR EARTH STATION SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY

APPLICANT INFORMATION Enter a description of this application to identify it on the main menu:  
Extend Special Temporary Authority – FAA Bethel (10/18/2019)

**I. Applicant**

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

File # SES-STA-20191018-01339  
Call Sign E960349 Grant Date 11-7-19  
(or other identifier) Term Dates From: 11-7-19 To: 1-6-20  
Approved: [Signature]



**GRANTED**  
International Bureau

<b>2. Contact</b>		<b>Name:</b> Cindy 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 IB2019003636			
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			
10/18/2019			
7. City/Bethel		8. Latitude	
		(dd mm ss.s h) 60 47 20.0 N	

9. State AK	10. Longitude (dd mm ss.s h) 161 50 33.0 W
11. Please supply any need attachments. Attachment 1: Exhibit A 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;"> <p>GCI Communication Corp. is seeking an extension of its special temporary authorization (STA) (File No. SES-STA-20190812-01079) to continue to operate, for 60 days or less pending a decision on its application for regular authority (File No. IB2019003636), a fixed satellite earth station in the C-Band.</p> </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"; party to the application; for these purposes. Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	
14. Name of Person Signing Chris Mace	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.**

Applicant: GCI Communication Corp  
Call Sign: E960349  
File No.: SES-STA-20191018-01339  
Special Temporary Authority ("STA")

GCI Communication Corp ("GCI") is granted special temporary authorization for 60 days, beginning November 07, 2019 to operate a 6.1 meter earth station in Bethel, AK with the Galaxy 18 (S2733) satellite at the 123 W.L. orbital location and the ANIK F3 (S2703) satellite at the 118.8 W.L. orbital location in the 3700-4200 MHz (space-to-Earth) and 5925-6425 MHz (Earth-to-space) frequency bands under the following conditions:

1. Operations must comply the existing station authorization currently operated by the Federal Aviation Administration under call sign E960346.
2. All operations shall be on an unprotected and non-harmful interference basis, GCI, 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 and must inform the Commission, in writing, immediately of such an event.
3. Grant of this STA is without prejudice to any determination that the Commission may make regarding pending or future GCI applications.
4. Any action taken or expense incurred as a result of operations pursuant to this STA is solely at GCI's risk.
5. GCI Communication's operations from November 03, 2019 to the date of this grant were authorized pursuant to Section 1.62 of Commission's rules 47 C.F.R. §1 1.62

This action 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.

 <b>GRANTED</b> International Bureau	File # <u>SES-STA-20191018-01339</u>
	Call Sign <u>E960349</u> Grant Date <u>11-7-19</u> (or other identifier)
	Term Dates From: <u>11-7-19</u> To: <u>1-6-20</u>
	Approved: <u>Paul E. [Signature]</u>

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

**APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF 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”) requests a renewal of its special temporary authorization (“STA”)<sup>1</sup> to continue to operate, for 60 days or less pending a decision on its application for regular authority,<sup>2</sup> service via two fixed satellite service (“FSS”) earth stations in the 3.7-4.2 and 5.925-6.425 GHz bands (the “C-Band”).<sup>3</sup> Specifically, GCI is seeking a continuation of its temporary authorization to provide service via 6.1 meter Scientific Atlanta 8060 antenna earth stations (the “Station”) located at Bethel, AK to communicate with Galaxy 18 and ANIK F3. The Station is an existing station, currently licensed to and owned by the Federal Aviation Administration (“FAA”). The site, call sign E960349, is currently part of the FAA Alaskan Satellite Telecommunications Infrastructure (ASTI) program, which links the Alaskan Air Route Traffic Control Center in Anchorage, Alaska with 64 FAA facilities throughout the region.<sup>4</sup> This infrastructure provides Alaska with 90 percent of its inter-facility communications for critical, essential and routine air traffic control

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<sup>1</sup> See IBFS File No. SES-STA-20190812-01079, granted Sept. 3, 2019 (the “STA”).

<sup>2</sup> See IBFS File No. IB2019003636 (filed Oct. 18, 2019).

<sup>3</sup> GCI recognizes that there is a current freeze “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.” The freeze on commercial C-band earth station activities does not apply to (a) STA requests for FSS earth station licenses in the C-Band and (b) the operations at issue given their longstanding DBE status. A renewal of the STA will allow GCI to provide ongoing service via the Station solely to the FAA that would not change the status quo in terms of earth station operations in the C-Band. Operations would be limited to FAA services. Out of an abundance of caution, if this STA request 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.” See *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).

<sup>4</sup> See L3Harris, Alaskan Satellite Telecommunications Infrastructure (ASTI) <https://www.harris.com/solution/alaskan-satellite-telecommunications-infrastructure-asti> (last visited Oct. 14, 2019).

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

services supporting commercial aviation.<sup>5</sup> This includes communications for commercial airline service in Alaska, commercial international over the pole flights, as well as commercial international flights to the Asia-Pacific. GCI requests a renewal of this STA in order to continue to support these critical U.S. aviation communications in Alaska.

GCI initially requested an STA for a period not to exceed 60 days pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §25.120(3) in order to provide critical services while allowing GCI enough time to complete necessary regulatory processes required by an application for permanent authority. As GCI previously explained, its operation of this Station does not cause harmful interference into surrounding networks, and there are extraordinary circumstances that continue to support the grant of these temporary operations that are in the public interest, and any delay in the institution of these temporary operations would seriously prejudice the public interest. An STA remains necessary for GCI to provide critical telecommunications services in rural Alaska exclusively to the FAA. As documented in Attachment A to the initial STA, the FAA migrated this site from the FAA-owned satellite infrastructure to commercial satellite services provided by L3Harris Technologies and its carrier partners. As documented in Attachment B to the initial STA, L3Harris Technologies chose GCI as its carrier partner to provide C-Band satellite communications services at designated locations in Alaska as part of the FAA's ASTI program. The migration from the FAA infrastructure to GCI has successfully occurred, and the continuity of service at this time is imperative. GCI filed an application for regular authority of the Station during the initial term of the STA,<sup>6</sup> and now seeks a renewal of the STA during the pendency of that application. Without a grant of this requested temporary authority, GCI will be unable to

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<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *See infra* n. 2.

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

continue to support ongoing critical U.S. aviation communications in Alaska. This includes not only domestic flights, but also critical communications for international over the pole (North Pole) flights, as well as international flights to the Asia-Pacific.

GCI's request for a renewal of its STA at this location and for this service continues to qualify as "extraordinary circumstances requiring temporary operations in the public interest," for which "delay in the institution of these temporary operations would seriously prejudice the public interest."<sup>7</sup> A grant of this request would allow GCI to continue to provide critical services to the FAA over this license as it has done during the initial term of the STA. The FAA's ASTI program relies on GCI's services to support critical aviation communications in some of the most rural portions of the country, linking pilots to the world outside of their remote location.

Granting a renewal of the STA to GCI to continue to provide service over the C-Band, for 60 days or less pending a decision on its application for regular authority, would certainly be in the public interest. Continuing to provide critical service to the federal government, and specifically the FAA, is a direct life safety issue for proper aircraft separation and control: for instance, the service provided by GCI at this site enables pilots to communicate with one another and air traffic controllers to prevent collisions, accidents, and to preserve human life. This need for this continued service illustrates a "compelling reason" to grant the requested STA extension.

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<sup>7</sup> 47 C.F.R. §25.120(b)(1).