

APPLICATION FOR EARTH STATION SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY

APPLICANT INFORMATION Enter a description of this application to identify it on the main menu:
Extend STA for (FAA) Huslia ES (Dec 2019)

1. 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-20191223-01773
E190862 Grant Date 1-8-20
Call Sign (or other identifier)
Term Dates From: 1-8-20 To: 3-8-20
Approved: [Signature]

2. Contact			
Name:	Cindy Hall	Phone Number:	907-868-5615
Company:	GCI Communication Corp.	Fax Number:	907-868-9817
Street:	2550 Denali St, Ste 1000	E-Mail:	chall2@gci.com
City:	Anchorage	State:	AK
Country:	USA	Zipcode:	99503 -2737
Attention:		Relationship:	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 SESLIC2019101601311 or Submission ID			
4a. Is a fee submitted with this application?			
☒ If Yes, complete and attach FCC Form 159. If No, indicate reason for fee exemption (see 47 C.F.R. Section 1.1114). ☐ Governmental Entity ☐ Noncommercial educational licensee ☐ Other (please explain):			
4b. Fee Classification CGX - Fixed Satellite Transmit/Receive Earth Station			
5. Type Request			
☒ Use Prior to Grant ☐ Change Station Location ☐ Other			
6. Requested Use Prior Date 12/24/2019			
7. CityHuslia		8. Latitude (dd mm ss.s h) 64 41 50.2 N	

9. State	AK	10. Longitude (dd mm ss.s h)	156 21 47.2 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.)			
GCI Communication Corp. is seeking an extension of its special temporary authorization (STA) (File No. SES-STA-20191017-01345) to continue to operate, for 60 days or less pending a decision on its application for regular authority (File No. SES-LIC-20191016-01311), a fixed satellite earth station in the C&#8722;Band.			
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.			
		Yes ☒	No ☐
14. Name of Person Signing	15. Title of Person Signing		
Chris Mace	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.
File No.: SES-STA-20191223-01773
Call Sign: E190862
Special Temporary Authority

GCI Communication Corp. is granted a special temporary authority for 60 days, beginning January 8, 2020 to operate a 4.5 meter Scientific Atlanta 8345 fixed earth station in Huslia, Alaska to communicate with the Galaxy 18 (S2733) satellite at the 123° W.L. orbital location and the ANIK F3 (S2703) satellite at the 118.7° 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 shall not exceed the operational power levels and parameters authorized in SES-LIC-20191016-01311.
2. All operations under this grant of special temporary authority shall be on an unprotected and non-harmful interference basis. GCI Communication Corp. shall not cause harmful interference to and shall not claim protection from interference caused to it by, any other lawfully operating radio communication system.
3. In the event of any harmful interference under this grant of special temporary authority, GCI Communication Corp. must cease operations immediately upon notification of such interference, and must inform the Commission, in writing, immediately of such an event.
4. All operators of satellites will be provided with an emergency phone number where the licensee can be reached in the event that harmful interference occurs, Currently the 24x7 contact information for the Technical Assistance Center is Ph.: (800) 770-8725.
5. Any action taken or expense incurred as a result of operations pursuant to this special temporary authority is solely at GCI Communication Corp.'s risk.
6. Grant of this authorization is without prejudice to any determination that the Commission may make regarding pending or future GCI Communication Corp. applications.

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



File # SES-STA-20191223-01773
Call Sign E190862 Grant Date 1-8-20
(or other identifier)
Term Dates
From: 1-8-20 To: 3-8-20
Approved: Paul E. Allen

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”)¹ to continue to operate, for 60 days or less pending a decision on its application for regular authority,² service via two fixed satellite service (“FSS”) earth stations³ in the 3.7-4.2 and 5.925-6.425 GHz bands (the “C-Band”).⁴ Specifically, GCI is seeking a continuation of its temporary authorization to provide service via 4.5 meter Scientific Atlanta 8345 antenna earth stations (the “Station”) located at Huslia, 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, which does not have a DBE or callsign associated with it, is currently part of the FAA Alaskan Satellite Telecommunications Infrastructure (ASTI) program, which links the Alaskan Air Route Traffic

¹ See IBFS File No. SES-STA-20191017-01345, granted Oct. 28, 2019 (the “STA”).

² See IBFS File No. IB2019003596 (filed Oct. 16, 2019). In preparing this STA renewal application, GCI discovered that the coordinates for the STA and underlying license application need to be corrected to 65-41-50.2N, 156-21-47.2W. In tandem with this filing, GCI is amending the underlying license application to update the coordinates and filing an updated coordination report reflecting this change. Per discussions with FCC staff, GCI includes this footnote to note that the same change in coordinates applies to this STA renewal.

³ In this application, GCI requests an STA to operate one fixed satellite service earth station.

⁴ 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).

GCI Communication Corp.
Application for Renewal of Special Temporary Authority

Control Center in Anchorage, Alaska with 64 FAA facilities throughout the region.⁵ This infrastructure provides Alaska with 90 percent of its inter-facility communications for critical, essential and routine air traffic control services supporting commercial aviation.⁶ 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

⁵ See L3Harris, Alaskan Satellite Telecommunications Infrastructure (ASTI) <https://www.harris.com/solution/alaskan-satellite-telecommunications-infrastructure-asti> (last visited Oct. 14, 2019).

⁶ *Id.*

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during the initial term of the STA,⁷ 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 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."⁸ 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.

⁷ See *infra* n. 2.

⁸ 47 C.F.R. §25.120(b)(1).