

Public Interest Statement

Pursuant to Section 25.120 of the Commission's Rules, BlackSky Global LLC ("BlackSky") requests Special Temporary Authority ("STA") for a period of sixty (60) days, commencing on June 22, 2020, to communicate with its Global satellites from an earth station located in Brewster, Washington, in accordance with the parameters that are set forth in its pending application for regular license authority to operate that station. *See* Application for Earth Station Authority, FCC call sign _____, File No. SES-LIC-INTR2020-01164.

As set forth in that Application, use of the Brewster earth station is of critical importance to the launch and early operation phase ("LEOP") for BlackSky's first two Global satellites that are the subject of its pending satellite modification application and that are currently scheduled for launch on June 22, 2020. Because of the inclination of the launch, BlackSky is highly dependent on three sites for LEOP located in: New Zealand, Germany, and Guam.¹ Unfortunately, each of the New Zealand and Germany facilities are currently in need of repair, without which each is at risk of failing for LEOP support. To date, due to COVID -19 related transportation and travel restrictions, BlackSky has been unable to deliver new parts to these facilities and, even once those parts are finally delivered, may not be able to get necessary personnel to the sites for installation in time for the facilities to be used for LEOP support for the upcoming launch.

BlackSky's only other earth station facility that may be capable of LEOP support is located in Alaska. Effective use of that facility for LEOP purposes will require BlackSky to operate it at a higher power than currently authorized though subject to a long-pending modification application.² Even if that modification application is granted in time, however, the low elevations from this site will allow transmissions to the new Global satellites only once or twice a day.

Because of the exigency of the situation, BlackSky has submitted its Application and is submitting this request prior to the completion of coordination of its proposed operations at Brewster. As to non-federal facilities, BlackSky has retained Comsearch to conduct a coordination and will submit Comsearch's report to the Commission as a supplement to its Application and this request as soon as it is completed and available for submission. BlackSky is also at this time initiating federal coordination activities.

¹ *See* ATLAS Space Operations, Inc, Callsign E190037, FCC File No. SES-LIC-20181224-03650.

² *See* BlackSky Global LLC, Callsign E180696, FCC File No. SES-MOD-20190725-00954; *see also* FCC File No. SES-STA-20190628-00850.

BlackSky understands that, if still then pending, any grant would be subject to the successful completion of coordination activities.

LEOP is a critical phase for satellite operations. Given the uncertainties in the status of two of BlackSky's earth stations that would be ordinarily be relied upon for communications during this period, getting the Brewster facility on line for this period will be of major importance to mission operations.

For the foregoing reasons, BlackSky urges that this request be granted in the public interest.

24-hour contact information for the earth station is as follows:

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