

February 12, 2021

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *IBFS File Nos. SES-STA-20210119-00138; SES-STA-20201120-01330*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter is submitted in response to WorldVu Satellites Limited (“OneWeb”) opposition to the pending requests of SpaceX Services, Inc. (“SpaceX”) for renewal of special temporary authority (the “STA Requests”) to operate a Ka-band gateway earth station in Litchfield, CT (the “Litchfield Earth Station”).¹ In its opposition, OneWeb incorporates by reference the same technical arguments it has made in the docket of SpaceX’s underlying license application.² These arguments are based on the false presumption that non U.S.-operator such as OneWeb somehow has spectrum priority in the United States over SpaceX because it filed its gateway earth station application before SpaceX did. As an operator licensed in the same NGSO processing round, SpaceX addressed the illogic of this presumption, emphasizing the Commission’s directive that for situations like these “coordination among NGSO FSS operators in the first instance offers the best opportunity for efficient spectrum sharing.”³

As the Commission is aware, SpaceX and OneWeb are currently engaged in good faith coordination discussions, including with respect to these gateway earth stations. SpaceX remains hopeful that the parties can reach an agreement that meets the needs of both sides.⁴ SpaceX understands that geographic separation is OneWeb’s preferred coordination strategy, but OneWeb’s preference does not equate to a legal right to demand it. Other spectrum sharing options can also provide effective strategies for resolving the technical concerns raised by OneWeb, without resorting to the type of regulatory priority system that the Commission has already determined is anti-competitive.⁵ In any case, the pendency of this good faith coordination is no basis for denying the subject STA extension request.

¹ See Letter from Brian D. Weimer, Counsel for OneWeb, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, IBFS File Nos. SES-STA-20210119-00138; SES-STA-20201120-01330 (January 29, 2021) (“OneWeb Jan. 29 Letter”).

² See Comments of OneWeb, IBFS File No. SES-LIC-20200410-00399; Call Sign E201606 (Nov. 6, 2020); Reply of OneWeb, IBFS File No. SES-LIC-20200410-00399; Call Sign E201606 (Dec. 2, 2020).

³ Response of SpaceX Services, Inc., IBFS File No. SES-LIC-20200410-00399, at 3 (Nov. 19, 2020) (“SpaceX Response”) (citing *Update to Parts 2 and 25 Concerning Non-Geostationary, Fixed-Satellite Service Systems and Related Matters*, 32 FCC Rcd. 7809, ¶ 48 (2017)).

⁴ See OneWeb Jan. 29 Letter at n.3.

⁵ SpaceX Response at 2-3.

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Sincerely,

/s/ Gardner Foster

Gardner Foster
Principal, Satellite Policy

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cc: Brian D. Weimer, Counsel for OneWeb

The SpaceX logo is located in the bottom right corner of the page. It consists of the word "SPACEX" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, followed by a stylized grey and blue swoosh that curves upwards and to the right.