

May 5, 2021

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

Re: Application for STA

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Red Dirt Communications, Inc. (“Red Dirt”), pursuant to Section 25.120(a) of the Commission’s Rules,¹ hereby requests Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) to resume operation of its expired Ku-band earth station. Red Dirt has filed an application on Form 312 for a license to replace the expired authorization for the facility and the Commission has associated call sign E210101 (the “Station”). The public interest will be served by grant of the STA.

Pursuant to Section 25.120(b)(3),² Red Dirt requests that the STA initially be granted for sixty (60) days to permit grant of its Form 312 application for the Station that it has filed. See File No. SES-LIC-20210420-00721. Upon grant of that application, Red Dirt would cease operation pursuant to the STA.

As a result of the drastic drop off in demand for live events programming because of the Covid-19 pandemic, Red Dirt ceased operation of its previously licensed Ku facility April 1, 2020. Red Dirt has not operated its facility since that time. Having already suffered significant losses in 2019 and continuing into 2020, Red Dirt could not justify for economic reasons continued use of its Ku facility until the health situation would permit the resumption of events requiring coverage. In the interim, the facility’s license expired on August 1, 2020.

Red Dirt has determined that demand for its services will now be increasing, which would allow Red Dirt to resume operations and return to profitability. Accordingly, Red Dirt requests grant of this STA, pending grant of Red Dirt’s application on Form 312 for a full-time license for the Station. An STA will allow Red Dirt to resume providing service to the public while it awaits grant of the Form 312 application for the Station.

Please note that there is some urgency in granting the STA. Red Dirt has been contracted to provide Ku-band services on May 27, 2021 at Gurnee, Illinois and the following day at Rockford, Illinois. For those events, it is likely to be using the Galaxy 17 satellite. Subsequent to these upcoming uses, Red Dirt will likely be contracted to provide services using other satellites on the Permitted List. Please note that the antenna that Red Dirt will use complies with the 2° standard.

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 25.120(a).

² 47 CFR § 25.120(b)(3).

The public interest will be served by a grant of the STAs. Accordingly, Red Dirt respectfully requests that the Commission grant the requested STAs for the Station.

If you have any questions concerning this STA application, please contact the Vice President of Red Dirt, Dennis Stacklin at +1-405-269-6759 or dennis@reddirt.tv. You may also contact me at +1-202-871-3772 or stephen.diaz.gavin@rimonlaw.com.

Very truly yours,



Stephen Díaz Gavin

Attachments