

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554**

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| In the Matter of |) | |
| |) | |
| Further Streamlining Part 25 Rules Governing |) | IB Docket No. 18-314 |
| Satellite Services |) | |

**COMMENTS OF
COMMERCIAL SMALLSAT SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**

The Commercial Smallsat Spectrum Management Association (“CSSMA”) submits these comments in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking issued by the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) in the above captioned proceeding.¹

CSSMA applauds the Commission’s efforts to streamline the Part 25 rules. It supports the Commission’s proposals regarding the following items: annual reporting requirements for satellite operators, out-of-band emissions, dismissal of applications, and notification of minor earth station modifications.

I. BACKGROUND

CSSMA’s membership includes many of the leading operators, ground station service providers, manufacturing and component providers, and other service providers in the small satellite industry.² CSSMA seeks to create the conditions for a coordinated, transparent, and expedited spectrum coordination process among commercial small satellite spectrum users, government users, and other satellite and terrestrial users, and to advocate and represent the

¹ See *Further Streamlining Part 25 Rules Governing Satellite Services*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, IB Docket No. 18-314, FCC 18-165 (rel. Nov. 15, 2018) (“*Part 25 Streamlining NPRM*”).

² CSSMA has forty-three (43) members. See *CSSMA*, cssma.space (last viewed Mar. 14, 2019).

members' views on spectrum management and other policy matters that affect the small satellite community.

II. ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SATELLITE OPERATORS

The Commission proposes to (i) eliminate Section 25.170, which requires satellite operators to annually disclose any authorized satellites or spectrum unavailable for service, a contact point to resolve interference, and the construction progress of any authorized replacement satellites and (ii) maintain only the requirement to confirm yearly the point of contact information.³

CSSMA agrees to removal of Section 25.170 and moving the yearly confirmation of the point of contact information to Section 25.171. The current requirement under Section 25.170 is duplicative and unnecessary as the operator provides constant communication to the Commission through other means such as deployment notices and the Commission has acknowledged that its staff does not make regular use of most of these reports.⁴

III. OUT-OF-BAND EMISSIONS

The Commission proposes to propose to adopt a clear, up-to-date international standard, Recommendation ITU-R SM.1541-6, "Unwanted emissions in the out-of-band domain," to replace the Section 25.202(f) out-of-band emissions rules.⁵

CSSMA supports this proposal. As the Commission notes, the current rule is outdated, causes constant misinterpretation, and can be easily replaced by the above-referenced ITU-R Recommendation, which is the clear up-to-date standard that the United States provided input

³ See *Part 25 Streamlining NPRM* ¶ 17.

⁴ See *id.*

⁵ See *id.* ¶¶ 18-19.

to.⁶ Moreover, the new out-of-band mask provides for a smooth transition starting at band edge rather than requiring an abrupt attenuation at band edge.⁷

IV. DISMISSAL OF APPLICATIONS

The Commission invites comments on two of EchoStar's proposals regarding the dismissal of applications.⁸ It proposes that applications be accepted for filing automatically within thirty (30) days of filing unless the Commission determines otherwise.⁹ It also suggests that the Commission allow applicants (operating in bands on a first-come, first-served basis) to correct any errors or omissions within sixty (60) days of a Commission request.¹⁰

CSSMA supports the proposal that an application be automatically accepted for filing within 30 days unless the Commission determines otherwise. Minimum submittal criteria should include all information necessary to allow the Commission and others run a frequency interference analysis and review an orbital debris assessment report and risk mitigation plan. Any Commission objection would need to be accompanied by justification for its non-acceptance.

CSSMA does not comment at this time on the proposal that the Commission allow applicants to correct any errors or omissions within sixty (60) days of a Commission request. Though most, if not all, the CSSMA members operate in frequency bands on a first-come, first-serve basis, first-in-time rights do not exist in these bands as the various systems are fully capable of sharing with current and future systems operating in the same frequency bands. Accordingly, there is no mutual exclusivity. In these bands, an applicant will not "lose" its spot in line by modifying an application because there is no line.

⁶ See *id.*

⁷ See *id.*

⁸ See *id.* ¶¶ 20-21.

⁹ See *id.*

¹⁰ See *id.*

V. NOTIFICATION OF MINOR EARTH STATION MODIFICATIONS

The Commission proposes to adopt Iridium's proposal that certain minor modifications to a licensed earth station, which do not increase the risk of interference, do not require a notice to the Commission within thirty (30) days of such a change.¹¹ Such modifications do not increase power, add frequencies, or repoint the antenna beyond any coordinated range. The Commission also invites comment on whether such a rule change would have any impact on the reliability of information filed with the Commission in earth station applications.¹²

CSSMA supports the elimination of the 30-day notification requirement if the modification does not increase the interference environment. As the values will be well enveloped within the originally submitted parameters, there will be no increase in the interference risk and no material impact on the reliability of the information. Enveloping such values is typical practice for operators when they submit their International Telecommunication Union Advanced Publication Information and Coordination Request filings. It will simply provide a worst-case scenario for reference.

¹¹ See *id.* ¶ 22.

¹² See *id.*

VI. CONCLUSION

CSSMA respectfully submits these comments to the *Part 25 Streamlining NPRM* with the hope that the Commission can help create a less burdensome licensing and compliance process for Commission staff and operators.

Respectfully submitted,

CSSMA

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March 18, 2019