

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Policies and Rules for Alternative)
Incentive-Based Regulation of) IB Docket No. 98-60
COMSAT Corporation)

To: International Bureau

**REQUEST OF COMSAT CORPORATION
FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Pursuant to Sections 0.261 and 1.41 of the Commission's rules, COMSAT Corporation ("COMSAT") hereby respectfully requests that the agency grant a brief extension of time to file comments in the above-referenced proceeding.¹ In connection with its recent decision to reclassify COMSAT as a non-dominant carrier for the vast majority of its INTELSAT-based business, the Commission has called for proposals to replace traditional rate-of-return regulation of COMSAT's remaining services—*i.e.*, those for which the company is still classified as a dominant carrier—with an "alternative incentive-based regulation plan."² The current deadline established for initial comments is Tuesday, May 26, 1998; reply comments are due Friday, June 5, 1998.

¹ See *Policies and Rules for Alternative Incentive Based Regulation of COMSAT Corporation (Notice of Proposed Rulemaking)*, 63 Fed. Reg. 25811 (May 11, 1998).

² *Petition of COMSAT Corporation for Forbearance from Dominant Carrier Regulation and for Reclassification as a Non-Dominant Carrier (Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking)*, File No. 60-SAT-ISP-97, FCC 98-78 (rel. Apr. 28, 1998) (hereinafter, "Non-Dominance Proceeding").

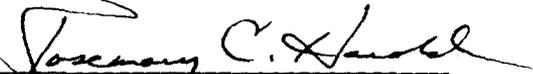
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COMSAT has been working diligently to craft a proposal that meets the criteria that the FCC has established for such regulation, while also avoiding the imposition of unnecessary and burdensome administrative tasks on either the agency or the company. As part of that effort, COMSAT has been attempting to be as responsive as possible to concerns that have been raised by the Commission. These concerns raise complex issues that will require some additional time—and the participation of several key COMSAT personnel—to properly formulate and present the company's proposal. This situation is exacerbated by the intervening Memorial Day holiday weekend, when several persons integral to COMSAT's consideration will be out of town and/or otherwise unavailable.

Given these circumstances, COMSAT requests that the Commission extend the deadline for the filing of initial comments by all parties interested in the proceeding by three days, to Friday, May 29, 1998. COMSAT also requests that the FCC extend the reply deadline by a corresponding three-day period, to Monday, June 8, 1998. In connection with this request, COMSAT is contacting all parties of record in the Non-Dominance Proceeding by telephone today to apprise them of this filing.

Respectfully submitted,

COMSAT Corporation

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May 22, 1998

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Request of COMSAT Corporation for Extension of Time was sent via hand-delivery this 22nd day of May, 1998, to each of the following:

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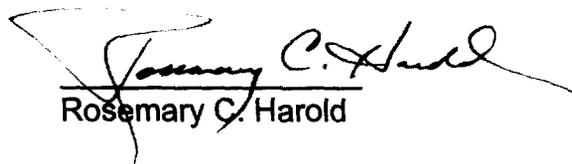
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