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

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**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

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In the Matter of)
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Amendment of Parts 2 and 25 of the)
Commission's Rules to Designate Extended)
C Band Spectrum for TT&C Functions of GSO)
FSS Systems Operating in Bands Above)
Ku Band)
_____)

RM No. 9411

**REPLY OF
HUGHES COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

Hughes Communications, Inc. ("HCI") hereby submits its reply in this proceeding. HCI urges the Commission to initiate expeditiously a rulemaking to designate spectrum in the 3600-3700 MHz band (space-to-Earth), the 6425-6525 MHz (Earth-to-space), and/or other portions of the C or Ku bands, for TT&C functions of space stations operating in bands other than the C band and Ku band.

The original Petition for Rulemaking, which has been pending before the Commission for 18 months, was filed by nine companies who represent a broad segment of the U.S. satellite industry.¹ All commenters have expressed support for initiating a rulemaking to designate extended C band TT&C spectrum.² In view of this broad support, and the absence of

¹ The original Petition for Rulemaking was filed on August 7, 1997 by Lockheed Martin; Comm, Inc. (Motorola); EchoStar Satellite Corp.; GE American Communications, Inc.; Hughes Communications Galaxy, Inc.; KaStar Satellite Communications Corp.; Orion Network Systems, Inc. (now Loral Orion); PanAmSat Licensee Corp.; and VisionStar, Inc.

² Lockheed Martin, Loral Space & Communications, Ltd. and TRW Inc. have filed comments in support of the requested rulemaking.

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any opposition, the Commission should proceed expeditiously with the requested rulemaking proceeding.

HCI agrees with Lockheed Martin and TRW, who express concern with the recent Commission NPRM to reallocate the 3650-3700 MHz band for fixed services and to freeze the licensing of earth stations in the band.³ That NPRM appears to conflict with the use of this spectrum for satellite TT&C operations, and does not appear to have taken cognizance of the pendency of this 18-month old request for a rulemaking. Thus, at a minimum, a careful examination of the prospects for co-frequency operation between TT&C functions and the proposed terrestrial service should be undertaken in the 3650-3700 MHz proceeding. HCI will evaluate the Commission's proposals and will comment further on the 3650-3700 MHz NPRM.

Finally, HCI urges the Commission to keep in mind the primary purpose of the rulemaking request: to provide adequate bandwidth for TT&C functions of the currently licensed GSO Ka band FSS systems, including Hughes' SPACEWAY system. Thus, in order to facilitate the deployment of currently licensed Ka band GSO FSS systems, HCI urges the Commission to accommodate the needs of the licensed GSO FSS systems at Ka band *before* it seeks to accommodate the needs of pending applications for other satellite systems.⁴ HCI does not object in principal to this proceeding being expanded, as some commentators suggest,⁵ to provide TT&C spectrum for other satellite systems for which applications now are pending, such

³ *Amendment of the Commission's Rules with Regard to the 3650-3700 MHz Government Transfer Band*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, ET Docket No. 98-237 (rel. Dec. 18, 1998) ("3650-3700 MHz NPRM").

⁴ This approach would be generally consistent with the Commission's policy decision to prioritize the resolution of appropriate feeder link bands for the "Big LEO" licensees.

⁵ See Comments of Lockheed Martin, Comments of TRW.

Certificate of Service

I, Susan Guzo, hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Reply of Hughes Communications, Inc. was sent this 14th day of January, 1999, by U.S. first-class mail, postage prepaid, or by hand where indicated, to the following:

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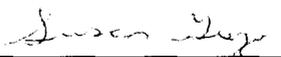
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