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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

September 17, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

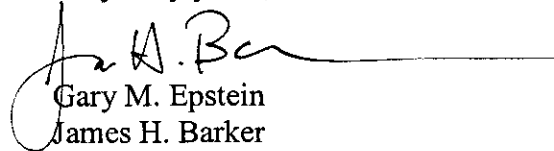
Re: *Application of DIRECTV Enterprises, LLC For Authority to Launch and Operate DIRECTV 7S (USABSS-18), File No. SAT-LOA-20030611-00115; MB Docket Nos. 03-82, 03-124 ; **EX PARTE***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter is to notify the Commission of a change in the expected launch date of the DIRECTV 7S spot beam satellite. DIRECTV in the above-referenced proceedings has stated that the DIRECTV 7S spot beam satellite was expected to be launched by the end of this year. Regrettably, delays in the assembly and testing process at the satellite manufacturer, and to a lesser extent, a failure of the primary launch vehicle, have pushed the launch date out until no earlier than mid-February 2004.

The issues that affected the schedule have been addressed at this point and the early 2004 launch date should hold, barring unforeseen or calamitous events. DIRECTV will keep the Commission apprised of any further developments. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions.

Very truly yours,



Gary M. Epstein  
James H. Barker  
of LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

cc: Merrill S. Spiegel, DIRECTV, Inc.