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ORIGINAL

March 31, 2004

BY ELECTRONIC AND HAND DELIVERY

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

MAR 31 2004

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re. *Notice of ex parte presentations in
MB Docket No. 03-124
File No. SAT-STA-20040107-00002*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Representatives of The DIRECTV Group (formerly known as Hughes Electronics Corporation) held a series of meetings yesterday with staff of the International and Media Bureaus. Present on behalf of The DIRECTV Group were Susan Eid and Romulo Pontual, as well as their outside counsel Bill Wiltshire and Mike Nilsson. Present on behalf of the Commission were Don Abelson, Steven Broeckaert, Rick Chessen, Rosalee Chiara (by phone), Barbara Esbin, Chip Fleming, Diane Garfield, Jennifer Gilsenan, Marcia Glauberman, Anna Gomez, Tom Horan, Bill Johnson, Selina Khan, Andrea Kelly, Deborah Klein, Scott Kotler, Kal Krautkramer, Mike Lance, Arthur Lechtman, JoAnn Lucanik, Mary Beth Murphy, Robert Nelson, Jeffrey Neumann, Rockie Patterson, Joel Rabinovitz, Royce Sherlock, Marilyn Simon, Tom Tycz, Tracy Waldon, Jay Whaley, and John Wong.

In the course of these meetings, we briefly discussed several options for meeting DIRECTV's obligation to provide local broadcast channels to subscribers in an additional 30 designated market areas beyond what had been funded, projected, or planned prior to the Hughes/News Corp. transaction. *See General Motors Corporation et al.*, 19 FCC Rcd. 473, 682 (2004). These options include the temporary operation of a DIRECTV satellite at a recently authorized Canadian orbital location.

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HARRIS, WILTSHIRE & GRANNIS LLP

Marlene H. Dortch
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I am filing one copy of this letter electronically in MB Docket No. 03-124, and am also filing two paper copies for File No. SAT-STA-20040107-00002. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

ls

Michael Nilsson

cc: FCC staff listed above
(by electronic mail)