



September 11, 2008

Via Electronic Filing

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

Re: *Ex Parte* Letter
Docket Nos. 06-150 and 06-229

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Satellite Industry Association (“SIA”) hereby submits this *ex parte* letter in the above-referenced dockets.¹ In response to reports that the Commission intends to release a further notice of proposed rulemaking proposing to significantly reduce the current D Block licensee coverage requirements, SIA reaffirms its view that satellite services should be an essential and easily accessible component of any public safety communications network.

Satellites are uniquely able to provide cost-effective service in many rural and remote areas, and in the event of terrestrial catastrophes, all first responders should have access to the kind of failsafe network that satellite systems are uniquely able to provide. Indeed, as Hurricane Gustav reminded us just recently, emergencies far less disabling than Katrina can impair even the most robust terrestrial communications networks. At such times, satellites can and do provide critical communications links. By incorporating satellite capability into 700 MHz public safety devices, the Commission will create a systemic solution that ensures vital communications paths are available anywhere and anytime with devices that first responders use daily.

For these reasons, SIA urges the Commission to seek comment on whether it should require more than one device to be satellite-enabled and, if so, what percentage of devices should have that feature.

¹ In its Comments and subsequent filings in this proceeding, SIA urged the Commission, to the extent it elected to continue to link the D Block to the public safety spectrum block: 1) to maintain its requirement that the D Block licensee make available to public safety users at least one handset that includes a seamlessly integrated satellite solution; and 2) to grant the D Block licensee flexibility in meeting license obligations, such as build-out and “hardening” requirements, if the licensee integrates a satellite component, as an additional network layer, with the shared 700 MHz public/private communications infrastructure.

Respectfully submitted,
SATELLITE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patricia Cooper, President
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