

O3b Limited
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Via ELECTRONIC COMMENT FILING SYSTEM

June 29, 2012

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

Re: In the Matter of Amendment of Part 15 of the Commission's Rules to Establish Regulations for Level Probing Radars and Tank Level Probing Radars in the Frequency Bands 5.925-7.250 GHz, 24.05-29.00 GHz and 75-85 GHz, Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making, ET Docket No. 10-23, FCC 12-34

Dear Ms. Dortch:

O3b Limited ("O3b") welcomes this opportunity to comment on this FNPRM regarding level probing radars ("LPRs") and tank level probing radars, specifically as it applies to the 24.05-29.00 GHz frequency band. As the Commission knows, O3b is preparing to launch a non-geostationary satellite system ("NGSO") that will use some of these same Ka-band frequencies.¹

O3b supports the FCC's proposal to "adopt operational restrictions to require the antenna of an LPR device to be dedicated or integrated as part of the transmitter and professionally installed in a downward position; to limit installations of LPR devices to fixed locations; to prohibit hand-held applications of LPR devices; and to prohibit the marketing of LPR devices to residential consumers."²

O3b is particularly concerned that unless these mitigation measures are adopted, aggregate operation of heavily deployed LPRs would unacceptably raise the noise floor for O3b's system. Another consideration is that sometimes such devices as built are overpowered, despite regulated limits, which may lead to more interference than predicted. As the Commission has recognized in past cases, it has not been possible to remove post-sale devices from use when these devices are unlicensed and exceed power limits imposed under Part 15 rules.³ For this reason, prophylactic rules designed to prevent interference (and effective enforcement of such rules) are warranted.

¹O3b's application for a Commission license is pending, IBFS File No. SES-LIC-20100723-00952 (Call Sign E100088). O3b's initial satellites will operate on five uplink channels between 27.6-28.4 and 28.6-29.1 GHz, and five corresponding downlink channels between 17.8-18.6 and 18.8-19.3 GHz.

²See *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, ET Docket No. 10-23, FCC 12-34, 25 FCC Rcd. (2012) at paragraph 34.

³See *In the Matter of Review of Part 15 and other Parts of the Commission's Rules*, ET Docket 01-278, *First Report and Order*, adopted July 12, 2002.

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Thus, O3b would urge the Commission to impose the restrictions proposed above, and to expressly require that unlicensed LPR devices (a) be operated so as not cause harmful interference to other authorized spectrum users, and (b) cease operations if any harmful interference is experienced by such authorized users.⁴

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joslyn Read'.

Joslyn Read
Vice President, Regulatory Affairs
1129 20th Street, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20036 USA

cc: (by electronic mail)

Ms. Anh Wride, Office of Engineering and Technology

⁴47 C.F.R. § 15.5.