

***Reliability and Continuity of  
Communications Networks, Including Broadband Technologies***  
PS Docket 11-60

**FCC Superstorm Sandy Field Hearing**  
***“Assessing Network Resiliency – Lessons Learned From Sandy”*** Panel  
**Presentation by**  
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Satellite technology represents the only high-speed broadband connectivity option available everywhere across the United States. Today satellite technology delivers broadband on a cost-effective basis to over one million subscribers that are otherwise unserved or underserved by terrestrial wireline or wireless technologies. Satellite also serves as an instrumental communications path in times of emergency or disaster and in their immediate aftermath. Satellite coverage is uniformly high quality, offering a true alternate communications platform – which is so important for emergency response and recovery activities when disaster strikes and terrestrial wireline and wireless broadband networks are most vulnerable.

Weeks after Superstorm Sandy pummeled the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions of the United States, many thousands of people and businesses were still without power. And so were many base stations, towers and switching centers of terrestrial network providers that were knocked out in the wake of the storm. Conversely, satellite networks withstood the disaster well, with limited or no reported disruption to service. Hughes Network Systems, LLC (Hughes) played – and continues

to play – a vital role in keeping emergency responders, businesses and people connected during the storm and in its aftermath. Here’s how:

- *Help for Rockaway:* The Rockaway and Far Rockaway areas of Queens, NY – home to between 175,000 and 200,000 people – were hit hard during the storm and had little or no communications. FEMA opened Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in the area, providing much needed information about recovery services such as housing/rental assistance and referrals to other assisting agencies (e.g., VA, SSA, SBA). Communications are an essential component of a DRC, but with terrestrial lines down, volunteers and disaster victims couldn’t make calls or apply for services online. Hughes responded promptly by providing DRCs with its broadband terminals and high-speed satellite broadband service.



FEMA DRC with Hughes' satellite Internet

- *Help for Habitat for Humanity:* Over 100 homes were lost in the Breezy Point area of New York from a six alarm fire that ensued during Superstorm Sandy.

Habitat for Humanity set up a command center nearby to help coordinate the rebuilding efforts; however, no terrestrial communications were available. The Global VSAT Forum put the call out to its members to assist in the recovery effort, and Hughes along with Cisco responded by providing key communications capabilities, including broadband services, that the organization needed to coordinate rebuilding efforts.



Habitat for Humanity Site with Hughes

- *Help finding an open gas station, hotel, restaurant, or ATM:* Hughes customer sites across the devastated region included thousands of gas stations, restaurants,

pharmacies and hotels. By virtue of being able to monitor all these locations, identify those with power and deliver other critical site-related information, Hughes provided a valuable service to the All Hazards Consortium (AHC), helping to quickly disseminate information to responders and mobilize recovery efforts. This information was regularly updated daily and was provided to officials in the impacted FEMA regions, the first responder community, and key emergency operations centers.

Hughes is honored to play an important part in supporting these noble efforts to help rebuild the community. We are the world's leading provider of satellite broadband, delivering innovative network technologies, managed services, and solutions for enterprises and governments globally, with more than 3.3 million systems shipped to customers in over 100 countries. Hughes operates sales and support offices worldwide, and is a wholly owned subsidiary of EchoStar Corporation (NASDAQ: SATS). For additional information about Hughes, please visit [www.hughes.com](http://www.hughes.com).