



NEWS

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

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 26, 2003

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Tom Sullivan at 202-418-0411

SATELLITE LICENSING REFORMS EASE CONSUMER ACCESS

Washington, D.C. -- Today the Commission took further steps to modernize its satellite licensing procedures. These measures will expedite the satellite licensing process and facilitate public access to the FCC, particularly regarding satellite license filings. These measures advance the Commission's strategic goals of modernizing the FCC and facilitating efficient spectrum management while at the same time, will increase transparency and ease public participation.

Today's initiative is the third satellite licensing reform step by the Commission in recent weeks. First, in April 2003, the Commission adopted a new first-come/first-served approach for satellite space station licensing.¹ Second, last week, the Commission allowed companies the ability to move satellites within their fleets to locations for which they have a license.²

The new initiative introduces two interactive forms that will facilitate the application process for satellite and earth station licenses. This action also moves the Commission to mandatory electronic filing for comments and petitions, routine earth station filings and the new "Schedule S," the agency's form for satellite applications. In addition, it proposes mandatory electronic filing for all remaining satellite filings. The measures adopted today will:

- Improve Public Access to Data. Almost all satellite applications and routine earth station applications will now be filed electronically. As a result, the public will have instant access to filings via the Internet.
- Simplify Filing of Earth Station Applications. The new 312EZ form for routine earth stations will make the earth station application process error-free. The 312EZ form will be interactive and will have built-in edit checks.

¹ Amendment of the Commission's Space Station Licensing Rules and Policies, *First Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, IB Docket No. 02-34, FCC No. 03-102 (released May 19, 2003) (*First Space Station Reform Order*), available at: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-102A1.doc.

² 2000 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Streamlining and Other Revisions of Part 25 of the Commission's Rules Governing the Licensing of, and Spectrum Usage by, Satellite Network Earth Stations and Space Stations, *Second Report and Order*, IB Docket Nos. 03-24 and 00-248, FCC 03-128 (released June 20, 2003) (*Second Part 25 Earth Station Streamlining Order*), available at: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-1028A1.doc.

- Improve Database Features for Satellite Licensees. The redesigned International Bureau Filing System (IBFS) home page will now be customizable, easier to navigate, and contain enhanced features such as a "watch list" to track applications.
- Facilitate Intelligent Use of Data. The newly established Schedule S will ensure that technical space station data is submitted in a standardized format that will enhance the Commission's spectrum management, homeland security and data-sharing requirements.

For further information please contact Steven Spaeth at (202) 418-1539 or Jacqueline Ponti at (202) 418-0436.

Action by the Commission June 26, 2003, by Report and Order (FCC 03-154). Chairman Powell, Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Martin, and Adelstein with Chairman Powell issuing a statement.

-- FCC --