



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

July 8, 2026

DA 26-682

Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested

Jeffrey Blum
EchoStar Corporation
1001 G Street, NW
Suite 700 West
Washington, DC 20001

Christine Crowe
Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP
1800 M Street, NW
Suite 800 North
Washington, DC 20036

Re: Final Obligations for FCC Auction 97 Defaults

Dear Mr. Blum and Ms. Crowe:

This letter is to advise that Northstar Wireless, LLC (Northstar) and SNR Wireless LicenseCo, LLC (SNR) currently have no further obligations under the Federal Communications Commission's (Commission) rules for their respective defaults on winning bids in FCC Auction 97.

Northstar and SNR were each winning bidders for spectrum licenses offered in FCC Auction 97 but defaulted on their final payment obligations for certain of their respective winning bids (Auction 97 Defaults).¹ Under the Commission's rules, winning bidders assume binding obligations to pay their full bid amounts upon acceptance of their winning bids at the close of an auction and become obligated in the event of default for amounts calculated in accordance with the Commission's rules, once there is an applicable subsequent winning bid.²

On December 18, 2025, the Commission adopted procedures for FCC Auction 113 to offer licenses for the AWS-3 spectrum that remained in the agency's inventory, most of which was available

¹ See Letter from Roger C. Sherman, Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, to Mark F. Dever, Counsel for Northstar Wireless, LLC, Re: Notice of Interim Default Payment Obligation for Auction 97 Licenses; Application of Northstar Wireless, LLC for AWS-3 Licenses in the 1695-1710 MHz, 1755-1780 MHz and 2155-2180 MHz Bands, ULS File Number 0006670613, 30 FCC Rcd 10700 (WTB 2015); Letter from Roger C. Sherman, Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, to Ari Q. Fitzgerald, Counsel for SNR Wireless LicenseCo, LLC, Re: Notice of Interim Default Payment Obligation for Auction 97 Licenses; Application of SNR Wireless LicenseCo, LLC for AWS-3 Licenses in the 1695-1710 MHz, 1755-1780 MHz and 2155-2180 MHz Bands, ULS File Number 0006670667, 30 FCC Rcd 10704 (WTB 2015).

² 47 CFR § 1.2104(g).

primarily due to the Auction 97 Defaults.³

Prior to FCC Auction 113, the Commission entered into a Settlement Agreement with Northstar, SNR, EchoStar Corporation, and DISH Network Corporation (the Companies) to resolve specified administrative claims. Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, the Companies agreed to pay a Settlement Amount that would be determined based on the results of bidding in FCC Auction 113.⁴ After the conclusion of Auction 113, and in accordance with the Settlement Agreement, the Commission provided to the Companies notice of the Settlement Amount, which is \$0, and issued a Payment Confirmation. With these actions, the Commission released Northstar and SNR from specified claims, which included their respective obligations under the Commission's rules based on the Auction 97 Defaults,⁵ and Northstar and SNR currently have no further obligations under the Commission's rules for the Auction 97 Defaults.

Sincerely,

Mary Lovejoy
Chief, Auctions Division
Office of Economics and Analytics

³ *Auction of Advanced Wireless Services (AWS-3) Licenses; Notice and Filing Requirements, Minimum Opening Bids, Upfront Payments, and Other Procedures for Auction 113; Bidding Scheduled to Begin June 2, 2026*, AU Docket No. 25-117, Public Notice, DA 25-1075, at 3, paras. 1, 3 (OEA/WTB 2025).

⁴ *See FCC and EchoStar Enter Into Settlement Agreement Related to Auction 97*, Public Notice, GN Docket Nos. 25-70, 25-71, and 13-185, AU Docket No. 25-117, DA 26-537, Attach. A at 2, para. 2 (OGC May 28, 2026) (Settlement Agreement).

⁵ *See Settlement Agreement*, para. 8(a).