

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of the Applications of)	
)	
GE AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)	
)	
For Special Temporary Authority to Continue Operations on Satcom K-2 in an Inclined Orbit at 81° W.L.)	30-SAT-STA-98
)	
For Special Temporary Authority to Continue Operations in an Inclined Orbit and Relocate Satcom K-2 to 81° W.L.)	81-SAT-STA-97
)	

ORDER

Adopted: January 30, 1998

Released: January 30, 1998

By the Chief, Satellite and Radiocommunication Division, International Bureau:

1. By this Order, we grant Special Temporary Authority ("STA") to GE American Communications, Inc. (GE Americom) to operate the Satcom K-2 domestic-fixed satellite in an inclined orbit mode at 81° W.L. until June 19, 1998.

2. Satcom K-2 began operations on December 19, 1985. The ten-year license term expired December 19, 1995. Since that time, the Commission has authorized GE Americom to continue operating Satcom K-2 pursuant to successive grants of Special

Temporary Authority.¹ In June 1997, GE Americom again requested an STA to continue operation in an inclined orbit mode, as well as permission to move Satcom K-2 to the 81° W.L. orbital location. A verbal STA was granted to GE Americom on July 3, 1997 to permit the relocation of Satcom K-2 from the 85° W.L. orbital location to the 81° W.L. orbital location and to operate it in an inclined orbit mode from this location.² GE Americom now requests continued Special Temporary Authority to operate Satcom K-2 until June 19, 1998. This request is unopposed.

3. We find that a grant of special temporary authority for the continued operation of Satcom K-2 in an inclined orbit mode at 81° W.L. will serve the public interest because it will allow GE Americom to continue to meet customer needs. We note, however, that this authorization gives GE Americom no priority or claim to the 81° W.L. orbital location.

4. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that application file numbers 30-SAT-STA-98 and 81-SAT-STA-97 ARE GRANTED and GE American Communications, Inc., IS AUTHORIZED to operate Satcom K-2 at the 81° W.L. orbital location in an inclined orbit until June 19, 1998, consistent with the terms and specifications set forth in its applications.

5. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the temporary assignment of this orbital location to GE American Communications, Inc., is subject to change by summary order of the Commission on 30 days notice and does not confer any permanent right to use of the orbit and spectrum. Neither this authorization, nor any right granted by this authorization, shall be transferred to any person except upon application to the Commission and upon a finding by the Commission that the public interest, convenience, and necessity will be served thereby.

6. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that no harmful interference shall be caused to any other lawfully operated radio station and GE American Communications, Inc., shall cease operation immediately upon notification of such interference.

7. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that GE American Communications, Inc. is afforded thirty days from the release of this order to decline this authorization. Failure to

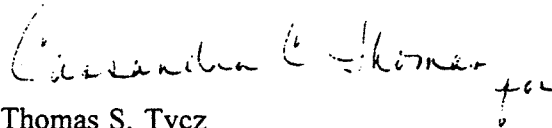
¹ Each of the STA's granted since December 19, 1995 have been for 180 days.

² This Order is written confirmation of that verbal STA grant, File No. 81-SAT-STA-97. We note that Loral Space and Communications, Ltd. and EchoStar Satellite Corporation filed comments in response to this request but did not oppose it. In its comments, Loral stated that although it did not object to an STA grant, any authority granted should be conditioned on Satcom K-2 ceasing operations at 81° W.L. no later than the date the location is to be occupied by a newly authorized satellite. It also suggested that any grant should make clear that the temporary relocation of Satcom K-2 to the 81° W.L. orbital location does not give GE Americom any priority or claim to that orbital location. EchoStar supported Loral's comments. In response, GE Americom stated that it would not challenge any permanent assignment of the 81° W.L. orbital location to another operator based on the grant of its STA request and that the relocation of Satcom K-2 would not cause harmful interference to adjacent satellites. Based on these representations, the STA was granted.

respond within that period will constitute formal acceptance of the authorization as conditioned.

8. This Order is issued pursuant to Section 0.261 of the Commission's rules on delegations of authority, 47 C.F.R. § 0.261, and is effective on adoption. Petitions for reconsideration under 47 C.F.R. § 1.106 or applications for review under 47 C.F.R. § 1.115 of the Commission's rules may be filed within 30 days of its release (*See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.4(b)(2)).

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas S. Tycz".

Thomas S. Tycz
Chief, Satellite and Radiocommunication Division
International Bureau