



NEWS

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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).

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COMMISSION SEEKS COMMENT ON PROPOSAL TO REVISE RULES FOR DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITE SERVICE

Washington, DC -- The Federal Communications Commission has adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Notice) seeking comment on licensing procedures and service rules for satellites providing Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) service. The Notice seeks comment on proposals that will apply to any application for authority to provide DBS service in the United States using the 12.2-12.7 GHz band and associated feeder links in the 17.3-17.8 GHz band. This includes both unassigned channels at orbit locations assigned to the United States under the ITU Region 2 BSS and feeder-link Plans, and applications for DBS service from space stations located at orbital locations not assigned to the United States in the ITU Region 2 BSS and feeder-link Plans.

The Notice seeks comment on new licensing procedures, including the use of the first-come, first-served process for all DBS applications, regardless of the proposed orbit location. Alternatively, the Notice requests comment on whether DBS should continue to be licensed outside the scope of the Commission's first-come, first-served satellite application processing procedures, and if so, what processing framework should be used to license DBS. The Notice also seeks comment on: (a) what additional issues the Commission should consider in situations involving non-nine-degree spaced DBS applications; (b) whether all the licensing procedures applicable to other satellite services (*e.g.*, performance bonds, milestones, and annual reports) should apply to DBS systems; (c) how to resolve impasses in operator-to-operator coordination negotiations; (d) whether new license terms should be adopted for all current and future U.S.-licensed DBS systems; and (e) other issues, including what, if any, action is needed to address the impact of reduced spacing DBS on other services.

Action by the Commission August 14, 2006, by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 06-120). Chairman Martin with Commissioners Copps, Adelstein, Tate, and McDowell. Commissioners Copps and Adelstein approved in part, concurred in part, and issued a joint statement.

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