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June 30, 2010

## 2010 Annual Report

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Attention: Satellite Engineering Branch, International Bureau

Dear Ms. Dortch:

SES WORLD SKIES,<sup>1</sup> by its attorneys, hereby submits a redacted copy of the report required by Sections 25.210(l) and 25.145(f) of the Commission's rules. Part 1 of this report sets forth the status of satellite construction. Part 2 describes non-scheduled transponder outages. Part 3 includes information relating to transponders sold on SES WORLD SKIES' operational satellites. Part 4 provides data regarding transponders not available for service or not performing to specifications.

SES WORLD SKIES requests that the data provided in Parts 2, 3, and 4 of this report be exempted from Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") disclosure requirements, under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4) and 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457(d) and 0.459, and that data is redacted in the attached copy of the report. As discussed in more detail below, these portions relate to transponder outages, transponder utilization, and transponders not available for service and provide information that is commercially sensitive and would not normally be available to the public. SES WORLD SKIES is simultaneously filing under separate cover letter an unredacted version of the complete report that includes the information that we are requesting be withheld from public disclosure.

Exemption 4 of FOIA provides protection from disclosure for "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential." 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4). See also 47 C.F.R. § 0.457(d). In applying Exemption 4, the courts have recognized that commercial or financial information is confidential if its disclosure will either impair the government's ability to obtain necessary information in the future or cause substantial harm to the competitive

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<sup>1</sup> On September 7, 2009, SES S.A. announced that the newly integrated operations of its two indirect subsidiaries, New Skies Satellites B.V. and SES Americom, Inc. would be conducted under a single brand name, SES WORLD SKIES. The new brand name does not affect the underlying legal entities that hold Commission authorizations or U.S. market access rights.

position of the entity from which the information was obtained.<sup>2</sup> The unredacted Sections 2, 3, and 4 of the attached report fall squarely within this description. Furthermore, other operators of fixed-satellite space station have routinely requested confidential treatment of transponder outage and utilization information supplied in their annual reports, and the Commission has accordingly refrained from disclosing this data publicly.<sup>3</sup>

In support of this request for confidential treatment, SES WORLD SKIES submits the following information responsive to the requirements delineated in Section 0.459(b) of the Commission's Rules:

1. SES WORLD SKIES seeks confidential treatment of the data provided in Sections 2, 3, and 4 of its unredacted annual report, which relate to unscheduled transponder outages, transponder utilization, and transponders not available for service.
2. SES WORLD SKIES is submitting the information for which it seeks confidential treatment pursuant to the requirements of Sections 25.210(l) and 25.145(f) of the Commission's Rules.
3. Sections 2, 3, and 4 of the report contain sensitive commercial information that has not been made public and is not available to SES WORLD SKIES' competitors. Specifically, these Sections include data regarding transponder outages, transponder usage, and unavailable transponders that could be used by SES WORLD SKIES' competitors in an attempt to improve their market position at SES WORLD SKIES' expense.
4. SES WORLD SKIES faces competition from numerous other providers of telecommunications services. Other geostationary fixed-satellite service operators include Intelsat, Hughes Network Systems, EchoStar, Telesat Canada, Eutelsat, and Hispasat. Given the robustly competitive market in which SES WORLD SKIES operates, protection of the company's commercially sensitive data is essential.
5. Disclosure of the information in Sections 2, 3, and 4 of SES WORLD SKIES' annual report could significantly harm SES WORLD SKIES competitively. SES WORLD SKIES' rivals and customers could use the data regarding transponder usage, outages, and unavailability in an attempt to negotiate more favorable terms of service. In addition, SES WORLD SKIES' competitors could use the information to target SES WORLD SKIES' customers, many of whom rely on more than one satellite capacity provider.
6. SES WORLD SKIES limits access to transponder usage, outage, and availability information to personnel for whom the information is needed in the course of their jobs. SES WORLD SKIES takes precautions to ensure that this information is not released to the general public.
7. The material for which SES WORLD SKIES seeks confidential treatment is not available to the public.

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<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., *National Parks and Conservation Ass'n v. Morton*, 498 F.2d 765, 770 (D.C. Cir. 1974); *Critical Mass Energy Project v. NRC*, 975 F.2d 871, 879-80 (D.C. Cir. 1992, cert. denied, 507 U.S. 984 (1993)).

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., Request for Confidential Treatment of Intelsat North America LLC, PanAmSat Licensee Corp. and PanAmSat H-2 Licensee Corp. (filed June 30, 2008).

8. SES WORLD SKIES requests that the Commission withhold the transponder usage, outage, and availability information from public disclosure for a period of twenty years. The Commission licenses space stations for an initial period of fifteen years. The information for which SES WORLD SKIES seeks confidential treatment remains competitively sensitive while a spacecraft is in service and for several years beyond decommissioning of the satellite. Thus, the requested twenty-year period should be sufficient to ensure that the information is protected during and beyond the typical life expectancy of a spacecraft.

Please address any questions concerning this submission to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Karis A. Hastings*

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Counsel for SES WORLD SKIES

Enclosure

cc: Columbia Operations Center

**SES WORLD SKIES**

**PART 1:**

**Status of Satellite Construction**

In its 2009 Annual Report, SES WORLD SKIES advised the Commission of the construction status of two satellites, AMC-24 and AMC-25, and notified the Commission that it had commenced construction of a third satellite, AMC-26. Those spacecraft have subsequently been re-named. AMC-24 was re-designated as SES-1, and was launched on April 24, 2010. SES-1 is licensed to operate at 101° W.L. AMC-25 was re-designated as SES-3, and continues to be scheduled for launch in the first half of 2011. AMC-26 was re-designated as SES-2, and continues to be scheduled for launch in the second half of 2011.

**SES WORLD SKIES**

**PART 2:**

**Non-Scheduled Transponder Outages**

**[REDACTED]**

**SES WORLD SKIES**

**PART 3:**

**Transponder Utilization**

Transponder capacity on all SES WORLD SKIES satellites is offered on a private, non-common carrier basis. Pursuant to Section 25.210(l)(3) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 25.210(l)(3), for each in-orbit spacecraft with U.S. coverage this section reports the number of transponders of which all or part of the capacity were sold to customers under such arrangements as of May 31, 2010.

**[REDACTED]**

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**SES WORLD SKIES**

**PART 4:**

**Transponders Not Available for Service,  
Or Not Performing to Specifications**

**[REDACTED]**