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For Immediate Release

**CHAIRWOMAN ROSENWORCEL CALLS ON AGENCY TO UPDATE
ORBITAL DEBRIS MITIGATION RULES**

***The Proposed Metric Would Provide a Clear Benchmark for Limiting the Probability
of Accidental Explosions in Space***

WASHINGTON, May 29, 2024—FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel today called on the agency to update the Federal Communication Commission’s orbital debris mitigation rules to limit the risks posed by accidental explosions in space by adding a specific, quantitative metric that satellites must meet. If adopted, the updated rules would require satellite applicants to assess and limit the probability of debris-generating accidental explosions to be less 1 in 1,000 (0.001) for each satellite.

“We can no longer afford to launch new satellites into our skies without being thoughtful about space sustainability,” **said Chairwoman Rosenworcel**. “Our orbital debris mitigation efforts will help preserve the orbital environment to protect services we rely on and allow new services to be launched.”

The Third Report and Order circulated today is part of the Commission’s continuing efforts to mitigate the generation of orbital debris in light of the increasing number of satellites in orbit. The probability metric in the proposed rules is consistent with the U.S. Government Orbital Debris Mitigation Standard Practices and would provide satellite operators an objective and transparent benchmark for demonstrating as part of their applications to the Commission that they have assessed and limited the probability of accidental explosions during and after the completion of mission operations. The new requirement would be phased in one year after its publication in the Federal Register to allow potential applicants to prepare.

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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. Cir. 1974).