

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN TOM WHEELER**

Re: Comprehensive Review of Licensing and Operating Rules for Satellite Services, IB Docket No. 12-267

Since becoming Chairman, I've spoken often about the importance of streamlining the FCC's processes. In my first week at the Commission, I asked Diane Cornell to prepare a comprehensive set of recommendations on what the FCC could do to make this agency as agile, efficient, and transparent as possible. Early this year, Diane's team released its Report on Process Reform, which provides a roadmap for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the agency.

Today, we are advancing one of the most comprehensive rule reforms yet to emerge from the Process Reform Report -- a rulemaking proposal that would streamline, eliminate and clarify numerous provisions of the Commission's Part 25 rules governing the licensing and operation of space and earth stations providing satellite communications. These proposed changes would go a long way in making the regulatory approval process for satellite licenses easier and more efficient.

Among other things, the rulemaking notice would facilitate international coordination of satellite networks and afford licensees more operational flexibility. For example, proposed revised milestone requirements would simplify space station licensing while ensuring scarce orbital slots are only made available to those entities that are truly prepared to build and operate satellites in them.

These proposed rule changes would ultimately benefit consumers by increasing the speed and ease of introducing new satellite services, while promoting competition among service providers.

Today's Further Notice is also a great example of a process in which there was extensive input from stakeholders in advance of the NPRM, which enabled FCC staff to put a large number of detailed streamlining proposals on the table for comment. I'd also like to thank my colleagues for their thoughtful comments and edits to the item.

I'm pleased that we are taking this next step forward in our process reform initiative - making things easier and less expensive by becoming more flexible in our processes.

Thank you to all the staff for their work on this important initiative, including Mindel De La Torre, Troy Tanner, Jose Albuquerque, Bill Bell, Chip Fleming, Cassandra Thomas, Diane Garfield, Kal Krautkramer, Cindy Spiers, Jennifer Gilsenan and Steve Spaeth.