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Commission Adopts Freeze on New Satellite License Applications

On April 23, 2003, the Commission adopted the *Space Station Reform First Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, substantially revising its satellite licensing process.¹ In that *Order*, the Commission adopted a freeze on new satellite license applications, other than Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) and Digital Audio Radio Satellite (DARS) satellites.² This freeze is limited to applications for licenses for new satellites. It does not apply to applications for replacement satellites, modifications to existing satellite licenses, or requests for Special Temporary Authority (STA), unless those applications or requests seek authority to operate on frequencies not previously authorized for operation by that licensee. Similarly, the freeze does not apply to amendments to pending satellite license applications unless the amendment would add frequencies that were not in the original license application. This freeze began on April 23, 2003, and will remain in effect until a summary of the *First Report and Order* is published in the Federal Register.

¹ See New Satellite Licensing Process Facilitates Faster Deployment of Consumer Services, *Press Release* (released Apr. 23, 2003) (*Press Release*). The *First Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in IB Docket No. 02-34 and *First Report and Order* in IB Docket No. 02-54 will be released shortly.

² *Press Release* at 2.