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Front Office

**By Hand**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Application of SkyBridge II L.L.C. for Authority to Launch and Operate the SkyBridge II System, December 22, 1997, SAT-LOA-19971222-00221; SAT-AMD-20031104-00323

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter is submitted by SkyBridge II L.L.C. ("SkyBridge II") in response to the *Public Notice* issued by the International Bureau on June 16, 2004<sup>1</sup> (the "*Public Notice*"), requiring certain satellite applicants contemplating post-mission disposal by atmospheric re-entry to file a casualty risk assessment by July 19, 2004.

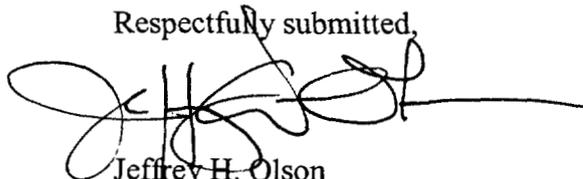
In the above-referenced application, SkyBridge II indicated that the "method for disposal of the SkyBridge II satellites at the end of their operational lives has not been definitively determined," and that atmospheric re-entry and/or storage orbit could be used.<sup>2</sup> SkyBridge II hereby notifies the Commission that SkyBridge II intends

<sup>1</sup> *Public Notice*, DA 04-1724, Report No. SPB-208, June 16, 2004.

<sup>2</sup> SAT-AMD-20031104-00323, Exhibit C to Form 312, at 2. As SkyBridge II also noted, the plans for post-mission disposal of spacecraft are developed in detail as part of the design process for the spacecraft, and SkyBridge II would be able to provide greater specificity on its plans for spacecraft disposal as those plans are further developed in accordance with the standard design review process. *Id.* As indicated in NASA Safety Standard 1740.14 (at 2-3), orbital mitigation assessment reports should be completed in connection with the preliminary design review ("PDR") and critical design review ("CDR") of the spacecraft. More specifically, according to NASA, the PDR debris assessment should identify debris generation issues, and, where possible, assess those issues, and the CDR assessment should identify, assess, and resolve all debris issues in detail. Because the SkyBridge II system has not yet been licensed, the clock on the milestone requirements for the standard design review process, including CDR, where orbital debris mitigation plans are finalized, has not yet begun to run.

to employ storage orbit for disposal of the SkyBridge II spacecraft. Therefore, a casualty risk assessment for atmospheric re-entry is not relevant or required. Updated information on the SkyBridge II orbital debris mitigation plan will be filed in accordance with the requirements of the *Second Report and Order* in the Commission's proceeding on Mitigation of Orbital Debris.<sup>3</sup>

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jeffrey H. Olson', written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey H. Olson  
Diane C. Gaylor  
Attorneys for  
SkyBridge II L.L.C.

cc: Tom Tycz  
Jennifer Gilsenan  
Sankar Persaud

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<sup>3</sup> Mitigation of Orbital Debris, *Second Report and Order*, IB Docket No. 02-54 (FCC 04-130, June 21, 2004). The deadline for filing updated orbital debris mitigation plans depends on the date of publication of the *Second Report and Order* in the Federal Register. Such publication has not yet occurred.