December 19, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: Ex Parte Presentation, Higher Ground LLC
Blanket License Application for C-band Mobile Earth Terminals
IBFS File No. SES-LIC-20150616-00357

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On December 15, 2016, Rob Reis of Higher Ground and the undersigned met with Daudeline Meme of Commissioner Clyburn’s office and with Brendan Carr of Commissioner Pai’s office with regard to the above-referenced proceeding. Higher Ground described the SatPaq, a satellite transceiver embedded in a smartphone case, connected via Bluetooth to a smartphone, and operated using an app that provides a standard messaging interface and seamless, real-time service. Higher Ground conducted an outdoor demonstration of the SatPaq and described how its Channel Master software applies the GPS location of the SatPaq to a ULS-derived database of all C-band point-to-point microwave receivers to identify non-interfering frequencies. Higher Ground used the attached presentation during the meeting with Ms. Meme.

This letter is filed pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission’s rules. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Adam D. Krinsky
Adam D. Krinsky
Counsel to Higher Ground

Enclosure

cc: Brendan Carr          Daudeline Meme
Background

• Rob Reis
  • Founder and CEO

• Company History
  • Founded 2013. 30 employees. Intelsat investor/satellite partner

• California-based
  • Manufactured in U.S.A.
Higher Ground Product

- Messaging service that extends beyond cell coverage areas
- Higher Ground’s SatPaq device is a satellite transceiver embedded in a smartphone case, connected via Bluetooth to the consumer’s smartphone
Higher Ground Application

- Operate Earth terminals on:
  - 5925-6425 MHz (SatPaq transmit)
  - 3700-4200 MHz (SatPaq receive-only)

- Operate on a non-interference basis

- Waiver request for portable operations and for database-driven interference protection for fixed point-to-point microwave operations
Interference Protection

• Uses FCC’s ULS database to protect current and future point-to-point microwave links
  • Permission-based transmissions—requires geographic separation and vacant spectrum
  • Updates daily from ULS for any new microwave links
  • Network-controlled—can shut down single SatPaq or entire network
  • Transmission log will ensure record of all operations
• Protects against adjacent satellite interference
Benefits

• Full-CONUS+ consumer messaging
• Smartphone innovation
• More efficient use of spectrum
• Other applications…
  • IoT in remote areas
  • Other?