October 13, 2017

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 October 11 and 12, 2017, Rob Reis of Higher Ground LLC (“Higher Ground”) and
the undersigned had separate meetings with Rachael Bender of Chairman Pai’s office, Louis
Peraertz of Commissioner Clyburn’s office, and Kevin Holmes of Commissioner Carr’s office.
As described in the attached presentation, Higher Ground discussed its satellite-enabled
messaging device, the SatPaq, which attaches to a smartphone and provides connectivity beyond
cell coverage areas, and described its interference protection scheme to protect fixed point-to-
point microwave operations in the 6 GHz band.

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

Attachment

cc: Rachael Bender
    Louis Peraertz
    Kevin Holmes
Presentation to FCC
October 11-12, 2017
Background

• Rob Reis
  • Founder and CEO
• Company History
  • Founded 2013
• California-based
  • Manufactured in U.S.A.
• Alpha and Beta testing
The SatPaq™ and Go Anywhere Messaging™

• Messaging service that extends beyond cell coverage areas to entire U.S.

• Likely customers are people who like to camp, boat, fish, back-pack, off-road....

• The SatPaq is a satellite transceiver that attaches to a smartphone, and connects via Bluetooth to a messaging app on the phone
User Interface Developments

Features include:

- Text to/from phone or email
- Text to/from another SatPaq
- Weather (tied to user’s GPS location)
- Ask the Wizard (assisted search capability; e.g., “How do you clean a trout?”)
- Share my Location
- Share my Activity

Similar in look to other messaging apps

- Command button for SatPaq 911
• Higher Ground will relay a SatPaq user’s GPS location and a 911 message to a 24/7 emergency call center

• The emergency call center then:
  • Identifies the appropriate first responder agency based on the SatPaq user’s GPS location
  • Calls the first responder agency and relays the location and the 911 message (the first responder agency need not be text-to-911 enabled)

• Two-way messaging continues with the user in trouble
SatPaq 911

-Life or death? No
-Alone? Yes
-Can move? No

My Location:
37.4284,-122.1409

911 call received. Help is on the way.
Jan. 2017 Order issued by IB, WTB, and OET after a year-and-a-half of study

Authorizes SatPaqs on C-Band spectrum:

- 5925-6425 MHz (SatPaq transmit)
- 3700-4200 MHz (SatPaq receive-only)

Operation on a non-interference basis, subject to rigorous conditions to protect fixed point-to-point (PtP) microwave operations in the 5925-6425 MHz band

Pending Applications for Review
Interference Protection Regime

- Use of—
  - GPS location of SatPaq
  - FCC’s ULS database to identify and protect all C-Band microwave receivers, accounting for individual data of each receiver (including location, antenna orientation, antenna height, C-Band frequencies)
  - Permission-based transmissions—operations only if SatPaq emissions are 6 dB below the noise level at any C-Band microwave receiver
  - 24/7 point-of-contact—can shut down SatPaq or entire network
  - Transmission log—will ensure record of all operations
  - Limited roll out—cap of 5,000 per quarter in first year, 50,000 in total
• “The record in the proceeding indicates that there is little risk of harmful interference given the low power transmissions proposed and the comprehensive self-coordination safeguards developed by Higher Ground.”

• “Nor do we believe that a grant of this waiver will undermine the [prior coordination] rule, given that it is limited to a specific, unique type of operation and ... is being authorized under a carefully drawn set of conditions designed to minimize any risk of interference due to operations under the waiver.”

FCC Order, ¶ 35