



Federal Communications Commission

Washington, D.C. 20554

February 21, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

SKYWAVE NETWORKS LLC

Marjorie K. Conner

Its Counsel

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Experimental File Number: 0320-EX-CM-2023

0671-EX-CR-2023

Dear Marjorie K. Conner:

This letter is in response to an informal objection to experimental radio license applications, **0320-EX-CM-2023** and **0671-EX-CR-2023**. Based on the record before us, the proposed experimental operations fall within the scope of the part 5 experimental radio service licensing rules. As there is no recognizable basis for withholding a grant of authorization, we deny and dismiss the objection.

Section 303 of the Communications Act, as amended, directs the Commission to “provide for experimental uses of frequencies,” and the experimental licensing rules are designed to promote innovation and to help realize the legislative requirement that we “encourage the larger and more effective use of radio in the public interest.” Our rules set forth an expansive scope of service for experimental operations that purposely gives researchers considerable flexibility to design and conduct experiments and tests – including the experimental operations described in the instant application. As the experimental process is, by nature, a learning process and subject to changed circumstances and updated approaches, these licenses are often renewed for multiple terms to provide researchers flexibility and sufficient time to fully explore new avenues for advancing telecommunications technologies and developing new services.

We note that experimental license holders operate on a non-interference basis. They are not protected from harmful interference from authorized services and they must not cause harmful interference to stations of authorized services, including secondary services. When it codified the part 5 informal objection rule in 2003, the Commission specifically discussed such harmful interference scenarios and concluded that it would continue to use informal procedures in the context of experimental licensing. Under this approach, we expect experimental licensees to cooperate in good faith on issues related to preventing and/or mitigating harmful interference as well as any other matters that arise regarding the nature of their operations as it relates to the experimental licensing rules. These rules require experimental stations to immediately cease operation at our request, prohibits resumption of transmissions until the licensee satisfactorily establishes that harmful interference will not be caused to any established radio service, and make experimental licenses subject to revocation without notice.

Sincerely,

Anthony Serafini
Chief, Experimental Licensing Branch
Office of Engineering and Technology

cc: Laura A Serafini
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