

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

Request of	)	
	)	
Satellite CD Radio LLC	)	Call Sign S2812
	)	
For Special Temporary Authority to	)	File No. SAT-STA-20260902-00356
Relocate and Retire FM-6	)	
	)	

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY

Satellite CD Radio LLC (“Satellite CD”) respectfully requests special temporary authority (“STA”) for a 180-day period beginning November 9, 2026, to permit relocation of the FM-6 Satellite Digital Audio Radio Service space station to 64.0° W.L. and to maintain the satellite there with an east-west station-keeping tolerance of +/- 0.1° to complete propellant venting in preparation for the satellite’s retirement. Grant of the requested authority will serve the public interest by facilitating the orderly retirement of FM-6.

Background

Pursuant to authority granted in a previous STA,¹ Satellite CD has begun the process of preparing FM-6 for retirement, relocating the satellite to the nominal 116.35° W.L. orbital location to conduct initial venting of the satellite’s fuel tanks. Satellite CD

¹ See *Stamp Grant*, Satellite CD Radio LLC Request for Special Temporary Authority, FCC Call sign S2812, ICFS File No. SAT-STA-20260105-00004, DA 26-199 (granted Feb 24, 2026) and *see* Request of Satellite CD Radio LLC to Extend Special Temporary Authority for Venting FM-6 in Preparation for Retirement, FCC Call sign S2812, ICFS File No. SAT-STA-20260716-00295 (filed Jul. 20, 2026).

herein seeks authority for the final phase of the FM-6 retirement process, i.e., performing telemetry, tracking and command (“TT&C”) to relocate the spacecraft to 64.0° W.L. +/- 0.1° to complete venting before the satellite is raised to its disposal orbit.² The request for a +/-0.1° station-keeping box will allow Satellite CD to vent the remaining chemical propellant.

Satellite CD proposes to relocate FM-6 to 64.0° W.L. prior to retirement to ensure adequate coverage from the limited number of ground stations that are equipped to perform TT&C in the FM-6 frequencies and that also have the tracking capabilities needed to support satellite retirement and decommissioning. FM-6 TT&C is conducted using S-band downlink and X-band uplink and Satellite CD has only two ground stations that are equipped to support the relocation and deorbit. This limitation is particularly significant because maneuvers to raise FM-6 to a higher disposal orbit will induce a westward drift rate. If Satellite CD were to begin the orbit-raising process from FM-6’s current orbital location, the satellite would move beyond the range of Satellite CD’s ground facilities before orbit-raising or venting was complete and Satellite CD would be unable to maintain communications with the spacecraft during critical aspects of the retirement procedure.

² The specific FM-6 TT&C center frequencies are: Telemetry (space-to-Earth): 2321.5 MHz, 2322.0 MHz, 2330.5 MHz and 2331.0 MHz and Command (Earth-to-space): 7052 MHz and 7056 MHz.

Relocation Request

As discussed above, the instant STA request seeks authority to relocate FM-6 to complete preparations for the satellite's retirement. Satellite CD plans to drift FM-6 to 64.0° W.L. starting as early as November 9, 2026, and to maintain the satellite at that location with an east-west station-keeping tolerance of $\pm 0.1^\circ$ while Satellite CD completes the venting of excess propellant and otherwise prepares the satellite for decommissioning. Once venting is complete, Satellite CD will begin the process of raising the satellite to its disposal orbit.

Grant of relocation authority will allow Satellite CD to safely vent FM-6 propellant and will therefore serve the public interest. No other operations will be adversely affected by this request. Satellite CD will conduct the satellite's drift consistent with industry practice, providing advance notification of the relocation to operators of any non-commonly owned satellites that FM-6 will pass during its relocation and ensuring adequate separation between FM-6 and other spacecraft. FM-6 will not be collocated with any other spacecraft at the 64.0° W.L. location $\pm 0.1^\circ$ location. Satellite CD has conducted a search of the NORAD catalog and confirmed 64.0° W.L. is not occupied and the nearest active satellites are Telstar 19W at 63.0° W.L. and Star One C2 at 65.0° W.L. With a $\pm 0.1^\circ$ east/west station-keeping tolerance, there will be no overlap between station locations of other operators.

Satellite CD seeks any waiver of Section 25.210(j) of the Commission's rules necessary to permit FM-6 to be maintained at 64.0° W.L. with a $\pm 0.1^\circ$ east-west

station-keeping tolerance. Grant of this waiver is consistent with Commission precedent. The requested station-keeping volume for FM-6 will not overlap with that of any other satellite. As a result, authorizing a $\pm 0.1^\circ$ east-west station-keeping tolerance for FM-6 will not adversely affect the operations of any other spacecraft.

Satellite CD is not seeking authority to use FM-6 for communications services during the period of the requested STA but only to perform TT&C operations to control the satellite before and during orbit-raising maneuvers.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Satellite CD respectfully requests special temporary authority for a 180-day period commencing on November 16, 2026, to allow relocation of FM-6 and to permit its operation at a $\pm 0.1^\circ$ east-west station-keeping tolerance.

Respectfully submitted,

Satellite CD Radio LLC

/s/ James S. Blitz

James S. Blitz
Senior Vice President, Regulatory Counsel
1221 Avenue of the Americas, 35th Floor
New York, NY 10020
(202) 380-4000

Of Counsel

Jonathan L. Wiener
Goldberg Godles Wiener & Wright, LLP
1025 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20036

September 8, 2026