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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 18, 2002

FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

BY HAND

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20054

Re: **Ex Parte** - Consolidated Application of EchoStar Communications Corporation, Hughes Electronics Corporation, and General Motors Corporation for Authority to Transfer of Control (CS Docket No. 01-348)

Ms. Dortch:

Hughes Electronics Corporation ("Hughes") and General Motors Corporation ("GM") (collectively, the "Applicants") hereby respond to certain questions raised by the Commission during Applicants' July 3, 2002 meeting with the Commission.

During the meeting, the Commission requested a clarification of DIRECTV's historic and projected programming costs related to the Total Choice programming package.

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The following table represents the average monthly cost of programming per customer for the years 1999 – 2002.

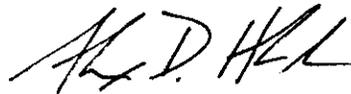
<u>Year</u>	<u>Average Monthly Cost Per Customer</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>
1999	[REDACTED]	n/a
2000	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
2001	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
2002 (projected)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

The average cost represents the average monthly cost of acquiring the programming for the Total Choice package per customer in the designated year. The average cost reflects both the contractual increases in programming costs over time and the costs of any programming that was added to the Total Choice package during the above-listed years.

Schedule VIII(e) of the Applicants' Interrogatory Responses filed on March 21, 2002 provided the total historic and forecast programming costs by tier. The forecast costs for the "Total Choice package" in that schedule represented the forecast programming cost for both the basic Total Choice package and certain premium Total Choice Packages, including but not limited to, for example, Total Choice Platinum, Total Choice Silver – HBO/Starz! 1, and Total Choice Silver – HBO. The historic programming cost data in the schedule, however, separated the various tiers of programming. DIRECTV examines historic costs differently than forecast costs, which resulted in the different nomenclature. The above table provides a more consistent statement of the historic and forecast programming costs associated with the Total Choice programming package.

This letter contains highly confidential information submitted pursuant to the Second Protective Order and the public version of this letter has been redacted accordingly. If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (202) 637-2200.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary M. Epstein
James H. Barker
Alex D. Hoehn-Saric
*Counsel for General Motors Corporation
and Hughes Electronics Corporation*

Attachments

cc: Marcia Glauberman
Linda Senecal