



Virginia Association of Broadcasters Legal Review



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Legal Memorandum

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SES Expands Deadline for Reimbursement of FCC Filing Fees for C-Band Downlink Earth Station Registration

We write with good news regarding reimbursement of FCC filing fees incurred by stations in registering their existing C-band downlink earth station dishes: C-band satellite operator SES has extended—by two weeks, until **November 15, 2018**—the deadline by which stations may seek reimbursement.

October 31st Application Filing Deadline Rapidly Approaching. Before getting into the reimbursement details, however, we want to remind stations that the deadline for filing applications to register existing (as of April 18, 2018) C-band downlink earth stations is just days away: **October 31, 2018**. Stations will recall that the FCC released a [Public Notice](#) a couple of weeks ago in which it acknowledged that its online registration filing platform had not been performing well, resulting in an extension of the registration deadline to October 31st.

SES Expands Program for Reimbursing Registration Filing Fees. Second, as mentioned, we have updated information from satellite operator SES regarding its program to reimburse broadcasters (and others) the \$450—or \$435, depending on what the broadcaster's filing receipt indicates the station paid to the Commission—FCC filing fee incurred in connection with the filing of new

registration applications for C-band downlink dishes. We reached out to SES after the FCC extended its application filing window, and we have learned that SES has extended its deadline as well.

Based on the information SES has provided, here's the most updated information regarding this reimbursement opportunity:

Reimbursement by SES may be available to U.S. C-band earth station operators (i.e., broadcasters, cable systems, DTH providers, video programmers, MVPDs, etc.) in the contiguous United States (not in HI or AK), subject to the following conditions:

- proof of submission/payment of the FCC registration fee must be submitted to SES at FCCregistration@ses.com by **November 15, 2018** (the SES submission deadline was previously October 31);
- registrations must be carried out between July 25 and **October 31**, 2018 (the prior registration window had ended on October 17);
- only new earth station registrations are eligible for reimbursement;
- reimbursement is limited to the registration fee of \$450 or \$435 per earth station (the registration fee recently increased to \$450 from the previous amount of \$435); and
- reimbursement is at all times subject to the availability of funds by SES.

Again, in order to be considered eligible for reimbursement, broadcasters will need to email their confirmation of payment of the FCC filing fee to FCCregistration@ses.com. Once received, it will be checked by SES to determine eligibility status. If eligible, reimbursement will follow. If not eligible for any reason, SES will notify you.

Reimbursement eligibility does not depend on the size of the entity seeking reimbursement. SES invites broadcasters to email (FCCregistration@ses.com) or call (609-987-4300) them with questions about the FCC's registration process and/or the filing fee reimbursement offer. SES has set up an informational web page (<https://www.ses.com/fcc-registration-or-licensing-c-band-antenna>) to help broadcasters understand the FCC's registration process and FCC Form 312.

Three-Week Countdown: EAS Form Three Due November 19

We also write to remind broadcasters that they have three more weeks to file the Form Three EAS Report, which is **due by 11:59 p.m. on November 19**. The Form Three report seeks detailed, post-test data related to the [nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System](#) ("EAS"), which took place on October 3rd. Form Three is also the report on which stations will describe any issues with receipt or retransmission of the nationwide test. Form Three (like Forms One and Two) must be filed using the FCC's ETRS ([EAS Test Reporting System](#)).

Filing Window Still Open to File Form Two EAS Report. Relatedly, any stations that may have had difficulty filing (or that may have forgotten to file) their Form Two EAS Report have until the same date, November 19, 2018, to file Form Two. You'll recall that the Form Two report previously had a due date of 11:59 p.m. ET on October 3rd (the day of the national test; Form Two requires stations to report on "day of test" information). However, FCC staff tells us that many

filers had difficulty with the ETRS on test day, so the Commission is keeping the Form Two filing window open until the same day that Form Three is due. If you have not yet filed your Form Two, we recommend that you do so as soon as possible.

If you have any questions concerning the information discussed in this memorandum, please contact your communications counsel or any of the undersigned.

Tim Nelson, Editor

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