Radio Network Affiliates:

In the past couple of weeks, your station(s) have likely been contacted via email or form letter from either Intelsat-Wesco and/or a Law Firm regarding the 5-G Cellular and C-Band Spectrum Reallocation of bandwidth, as it pertains to the Earth Station Antennas. This communication is urging your station(s) to complete documentation and “make a decision” regarding a reimbursement of possible expenses to satellite antenna owners.

I want to break this down and communicate on 5 very specific points or questions that are causing confusion, and I apologize for this lengthy notice.

1) Why is Intelsat contacting me and do I use their satellite service?
2) What is the FCC Reimbursement option that I need to respond to before Aug 31st?
3) What is the situation with 5G Cellular and C-Band satellite?
4) How is this going to impact my station(s)? What do we need to do?
5) What is the SES-Americom/Superior Satellite program?

#1: Learfield IMG College (and most other radio network programming operators) utilize SES-11 (105°W) Satellite from the company- SES Americom. Intelsat is a different satellite company that typically operates programming for Television and Cable Television entities- along with Sirius-XM and NPR- National Public Radio.

If your station is carrying programming for NPR or Sirius-XM, then you will want to follow the instructions of the documentation provided by Intelsat.

If your station does not have a satellite dish pointed at Intelsat (99°W) for these programs- you can disregard the information you’ve received from Intelsat/Wesco.

#2: As for the FCC reimbursement program... the FCC is offering a lump sum reimbursement to stations as an option to cover any expected costs of satellite antenna relocation, realignment or filter installation due to the 5-G Cellular movement to reallocate the C-Band spectrum. This option plan is a one-time disbursement from the FCC- you accept this money as a payout and you are “on-your-own” to make any repairs or updates necessary. More information about this reimbursement can be found at: https://www.fcc.gov/about-fcc/fcc-initiatives/incentive-auctions/reimbursement

#3: Engineers in the telecom & satellite industry expect- as the 5G Cellular towers are installed and the services are activated, downlink C-Band antennas will incur significant amounts of interference and loss of programming. Thus, a downlink antenna “filter” will need to be installed to prevent this interference. The C-Band receive filter and the installation is what the SES Americom plan options intend to cover.
The satellite used by Learfield IMG College- (SES-11 @ 105*W), is not moving. There will not be a need for antenna re-pointing or relocations.

If your station followed the advice of Learfield IMG College (back in 2017/2018), and registered your satellite antenna with the FCC and the IBFS Database, your costs will be covered for these expenses under the program that our satellite vendor- SES Americom will be offering.

A company called Superior Satellite (on behalf of SES Americom) will be reaching out to our affiliate stations in the coming days/week- to outline program details and options for assisting stations with repairs or upgrades to Earth Station satellite antennas.

- **Option A – Self Install** (Equipment shipped to station for personnel to install locally – equipment costs fully covered)
- **Option B – Turn-Key** (A third-party company on behalf of SES Americom, perform the required work, install equipment and sign off as completed – equipment and labor cost fully covered.)

If your station(s) did not register your downlink satellite antenna(s) with the FCC, your station will not be guaranteed to receive the assistance with services or equipment costs mentioned above from SES Americom. Thus, the FCC disbursement option may be the choice for your station(s).

SES Americom has a Help Desk email that can provide a great deal of information for your station(s) in clarifying these details and assistance on this subject. Their address is: Cbandhelp@ses.com

If you have any other questions regarding this information, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me directly.

RW
Randy Williams- C.E.