

# The Role of the FCC in STM Policy & Regulation

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UND DEPT. OF SPACE STUDIES

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# Space Policy Directive-3

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Establishes government-wide scheme for STM/SAA

- New Policies
- Revisions to Older Rules (US Gov't Debris Standards)
- Inter-agency Cooperation

Calls for FCC Chairman to work with other Agency Heads

- Drafting of new licensure rules?

# Mitigation of Orbital Debris (2004)

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## Final Rule

- Defines orbital debris, need to intervene
- Requires debris mitigation assessments for licensees
  - Reduce likelihood of normal operations creating debris
  - Limit possible explosions
  - Limit collision possibility
- Recognizes importance of insurance/indemnification, but does not require

# Proposed Rule (2018-19)

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## Refines earlier iteration

- Continues to require mitigation & assessment plans
- Now requires additional information:
  - Consideration of liquids becoming sources of debris/collision
  - Debris plans for “deployment devices”
  - Quantifies the collision probabilities that must be reported in mitigation plans
  - Different treatment for “constellations”?
  - Etc.

# Proposed Rule (2018-19)

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Adds in “Best Practices”-styled regulation

- NGS0 satellites will need to state whether they intend to operate in the 650-2,000 km range
- If so, must deploy to lower than 650, and *then* move into orbit desired
- Licensees must now submit an “executed agreement indemnifying the United States” from liability
- Etc.

# FCC's Proper Role?

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## FCC 18-159 Report/NPRM

- Commissioners state the importance of STM/preventing orbital debris accumulation
- Some questioned whether the FCC should be an active regulator, or a support agency
- Others found that the Proposed Rule is “timid”
- SPD-3 ensures that FCC will be playing a role for the foreseeable future

Thank You!!!

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