



U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

Foreign Investment Review Section

Washington, D.C. 20530

February 24, 2026

By E-File

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
45 L St. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Sol Cable (Starfish Infrastructure Inc.), FCC File No. SCL-LIC-20250910-00044 – Request for Additional Time to Respond

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to section 1.40002(b)(2) of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC or Commission) rules,¹ the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) respectfully requests that the FCC grant a two-week extension to respond to the Accepted for Filing Public Notice for the above-referenced submarine cable landing license application released on Friday, February 13, 2026.²

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is a member of the Committee for the Assessment of Foreign Participation in the United States Telecommunications Services Sector (Committee), of which DOJ is the Chair.³ DHS is subject to a lapse in appropriations that prevents its participation in Committee reviews.⁴ DHS routinely requests that the FCC defer action on submarine cable applications and remove such applications from streamlined processing so that DHS may review the applications for national security purposes,⁵ and the FCC has accommodated such requests by removing similar applications from streamlining and

¹ 47 CFR §1.40002(b)(2) (providing that an executive branch agency may submit a request to the FCC if additional time beyond the comment period is needed to determine whether the executive branch agency will seek a deferral).

² Streamlined Submarine Cable Landing License Applications-Accepted for Filing, SCL-LIC-20250910-00044, Public Notice, DA 25-155 (OIA, Feb. 13, 2026) at 2-4.

³ *Establishing the Committee for the Assessment of Foreign Participation in the United States Telecommunications Services Sector*, Executive Order 13913 (Apr. 4, 2020) (Executive Order).

⁴ See Letter from Chris Clements, Deputy Chief, Foreign Investment Review Section, National Security Division, DOJ, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, FCC File No. SCL-LIC-20250718-00014 (TT 25-021) (filed Feb. 17, 2026).

⁵ See, e.g. Letter from Bryce Shoenborn, Director, Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans, DHS, to FCC, FCC File No. SCL-LIC-20240621-00030 (filed Aug. 1, 2024); Letter from Bryce Shoenborn, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Security, Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans, DHS, to FCC, FCC File No. SCL-LIC-20241115-00046 (filed Apr. 7, 2025).



referring those applications to the Committee.⁶

We anticipate that the current lapse in appropriations will prevent DHS from timely responding to the Public Notice by the deadline of February 27, 2026. An extension to allow DHS the opportunity to prepare and provide a response to the Public Notice is in the public interest.⁷ Accordingly, we request that the FCC grant the Committee and its member agencies a two-week extension that would establish a new filing deadline of March 13, 2026.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christopher R. Clements
Deputy Chief
Telecommunications and Supply Chain
Foreign Investment Review Section
National Security Division
U.S. Department of Justice

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⁶ See, e.g. Non-Streamlined Submarine Cable Landing License Applications – Accepted for Filing, SCL-LIC-20241115-00046, Public Notice, Report No. SCL-00535NS (OIA, Apr. 10, 2025) (In which OIA acknowledges DHS’ request that the Commission defer action on the application until DHS completes its review, and, pursuant to Commission practice, refers the application to the Committee for “its views on any national security or law enforcement concerns related to the application.”).

⁷ Moreover, an extension here would not cause harm to any party in the proceeding and cause no significant delay. DOJ’s tailored request of a two-week extension is intended to minimize delay. See, e.g., *Advanced Methods to Target and Eliminate Unlawful Robocalls; Call Authentication Trust Anchor*, CG Docket No. 17-59 and WC Docket No. 17-97, Order, 36 FCC Rcd 15572, 15573 para. 4 (rel. Nov. 5, 2021) (internal quotations omitted); *Call Authentication Trust Anchor*, WC Docket No. 17-97, Order, 38 FCC Rcd 45, 46 ¶ 4 (rel. Jan. 5, 2023) (internal quotations omitted). Should the shutdown extend beyond the extended deadline, DOJ expects to submit an additional tailored extension request if necessary to allow DHS sufficient time to seek a deferral of the above-captioned application. We also invite the Office of International Affairs (OIA) to extend the deadline *sua sponte* should the DHS shutdown continue beyond March 13, 2026, to ensure that DHS has a meaningful opportunity to comment in response to the Public Notice.